FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

CHICAGO FILE NO. 25-5976

REPORT MADE AT	DATE WHEN MADE	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE	REPORT MADE BY
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS	10/6/42	9/14/17-19/21/23/42	LEO H. FRUTKIN LHF:CH

TITLE	CHARACTER OF CASE
WILLIAM BERNARD WERNECKE, with aliases	SELECTIVE SERVICE

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

MRS. ANNA JONES, wife of LA VERNE JONES, former employee on WERNECKE farm, advised she saw framed picture of HITLER in loft of barn prior to Christmas, 1941. She stated that she has heard MR. and MRS. DONATH speak to subject in a foreign language and has heard subject answer in English. ERNST SCHAEUBLIN, Manager of Swiss Club, Chicago, advised that MRS. DONATH reserved a room for subject where he stayed from August 31, 1942 to September 3, 1942. MRS. DONATH allegedly paid for subject's room there and for the keys which WERNECKE lost. MRS. LUCILLE WALLACE, Wadsworth, Ill., saw a picture of HITLER on the wall of house on subject's farm and observed target practice there. Confidential Informant furnished newspaper clipping stating that WERNECKE filed complaint on behalf of the German American Bund against editor of Kon Magazine. Records of the Court reveal only that WILLIAM WERNECKE signed a complaint individually and not as representing anyone. Hearing before U. S. Commissioner, Chicago, postponed to October 6, 1942 by agreement between Assistant U. S. Attorney and subject's Attorney. Subject unfrocked by RICHTER by letter dated September 16, 1942. Subject submitted his occupational questionnaire, completed with the assistance of a physician. Subject attended Stevensville High School, Stevensville, Michigan, but took no courses for preparation for the Ministry. He failed all courses.

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REFERENCES:

Report of Special Agent EARL HIDDE, Chicago, Illinois, dated September 12, 1942.
Teletype to Bureau dated September 22, 1942.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: A. H. Johnson SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent SAMUEL B. BLASKEY, on September 17, 1942:-

MRS. LA VERNE CHARLES (ANNA) JONES furnished the following information: She and her husband moved out of the Wernecke farm at Huntley, Illinois, where her husband had been employed for the past year and three or four months. They left the farm on September 10, 1942. They are presently residing at 1927 South Shelby Court, Chicago, Illinois, but on September 18th they intended to return to Huntley, Illinois and stay at MIKE PERRIN'S family on his farm at Huntley until MR. JONES could find employment and until they can rent a place of their own.

MRS. JONES advised that they will inform the MIKE PERRINS where they go from his farm. MRS. JONES stated she did her own house work in their little cottage in which they lived on the Wernecke farm and that she helped MR. JONES occasionally with the farm chores. She stated that her husband was the one who was employed by the Werneckes, and not herself. She did not associate with the Werneckes very much but kept to herself and tended her cottage and garden. On one occasion last winter MRS. WERNECKE invited Mr. and Mrs. JONES into the Wernecke house at the farm, and on that Sunday night there was present at the farm house in addition to MR. WERNECKE and Mr. and MRS. JONES, WILLIAM WERNECKE, MRS. DONATH and GERTRUDE DONATH. They danced and talked about farming and planting but the war and politics was not discussed. MRS. WERNECKE had instructed the JONES not to have any company visit them outside of a few close friends. MRS. JONES has never seen WILLIAM WERNECKE in a minister's collar, nor has she ever heard the Werneckes talk about any church. She has heard OTTO and MRS. DONATH speak to WERNECKE in a foreign language which she believes to be German but since she speaks no foreign language she is not absolutely sure. On those occasions WILLIAM WERNECKE seemed to understand the conversation and answered in English.

She has seen ERNIE and SYLVIA SCHARF at the farm in addition to the DONATHS and other people whose names she did not know. She mentioned that several young boys used to come to the farm and ride but she did not know their identity.

Shortly before Christmas 1941 MRS. JONES saw a large framed picture of HITLER lying near the WERNECKE radio in the loft of the barn on the farm. This was wrapped in newspapers but MRS. JONES stated that she could see that it was a picture of HITLER. She never saw this picture again.

MR. LA VERNE CHARLES JONES informed Agent that he never saw the picture of HITLER that his wife had previously told him about, and that last spring when he moved all the furniture from one part of the barn in the loft to another place above the oat bin, he handled every item there but did not see the picture that his wife had mentioned. He stated that one HCARLIE MARSH assisted him in moving the furniture from one part of the barn to another and that this CHARLIE MARSH has been employed occasionally by the day by the WERNECKES. MARSH lives in Huntley, Illinois.

File 25-5976

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents JOHN MOORE and JOHN BRADY MURPHY:

From March 31 until September 3, 1942, WILLIAM WERNECKE occupied Room #39 at the Swiss Club, 635 W. Webster Street. It was deemed advisable to obtain a signed statement from ERNST SCHAEUBLIN, the Manager of the Swiss Club, and to obtain a signed statement regarding the full particulars of WERNECKE obtaining this room. Therefore, on September 14, 1942, ERNST SCHAEUBLIN came to the Chicago Field Office where he was interviewed and executed the following signed statement:

"I, ERNST SCHAEUBLIN, make the following voluntary statement to J. BRADY MURPHY and JOHN MOORE, having identified themselves to me as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, no threats or promises having been made to me in order to obtain this statement, and I give it freely.

"I was born April 3, 1901, at Basel, Switzerland, and entered the United States, July 6, 1923, at New York City on the vessel 'Belgeland.' I became a citizen of the United States at Chicago, Illinois, on February 9 or 12, 1929. On my trip to the United States I was accompanied by ERNEST KREBS, whom I last saw in Chicago approximately ten years ago, who was at that time employed by the National Tea Company.

"I came to the United States merely for travel and later decided to remain here. Upon first arriving in Chicago, I visited JOHN KERN, 1817 North Francisco Avenue. I have no relatives residing in the United States. On August 17, 1929, I married IDA MARIE DE METSENARE, who at one time resided in Sheffield, Illinois, having been born in Annawan, Illinois. We have one child, ERNEST PETER SCHAEUBLIN, born October 30, 1931. Upon first arriving in Chicago, I was employed by the Marshall Field Company as a stock clerk from July 1923 to December 31, 1924. From January 1925 until September 30, 1939, I was employed by the Hamburg-American Lines in various capacities, occasionally assisting as an office clerk, and was so employed in Chicago until the year 1934, when I became Assistant Manager of the Tourist and Third Class Passenger Reservations. In conjunction with this, it was necessary for me to make several trips to Hamburg, which are listed as follows:

"On December 7, 1926, I went to Hamburg, Germany, as an exchange employee. I left Hamburg, Germany, on March 11, 1927, returning to the United States.

"On December 7, 1933 I again took a trip to Hamburg, Germany, accompanying a Christmas excursion. I left Hamburg, Germany, about the middle of January, 1934, returning to the United States.

"On December 7, 1935, I again took a Christmas excursion to Bremen, Germany, returning to the United States about January 20, 1936.

"On December 16, 1937, I again took a Christmas excursion to Bremen, Germany, returning in January, 1938, to the United States. At this time I would like to explain that an exchange employee consists of interchanging employees of the Hamburg-American Line between Germany and America, in order that these employees may comprehend the duties performed in both countries. As a result of the war waged by Germany, the Hamburg-American Line closed their offices, and it was necessary for me to seek new employment. From October or November 1939 until March 1940 I was employed as an insurance salesman by the New York Life Insurance Company, Bankers Building, Chicago, Illinois. From March, 1940, I helped take the census for the United States Government. On May 1, 1940, I started as manager with the Swiss Club, being hired by the United Swiss Societies of Chicago, Inc., whose president is DAVID J. ZWEIFEL.

"My education consists of grammar school and high school, as well as three years business college, all taken in Switzerland. I am registered with Local Board 145, Chicago, Illinois, having registered for the draft on February 16, 1942, and as of July 3, 1942, I was placed in Class 3A, my order number being 10156. My mother and father are both deceased, and the only close living relative is my sister, ELSY NONELLA of Bern, Switzerland. From 1934 or 1935 until 1939, I was treasurer of the United Swiss Societies of Chicago, Inc.; from 1939 until May 1940 I was secretary of the United Swiss Societies of Chicago, Inc. I am also a member of the Swiss Male Chorus, Swiss Turners (gymnastic society), the Alpine Male Chorus, the West Side Harmony (singing society), Sennefelder Liederkranz (a German singing society which meets at the Germania Club).

"On Saturday or Sunday, August 29th or 30th, 1942, MRS. DONATH, who operates a store several doors east of the Swiss Club, contacted me and asked me if I had a vacant room available in the Swiss Club for a friend of hers, to be used for a few days, and I told her yes. On the same day she recontacted me and asked me to reserve a room for the fellow who stays at her house all the time, asking me if I knew who this individual was, to which I replied yes. However, I would like to state that I did not know this individual's name at this time, but merely knew him because he came in every day to the Swiss Club to buy cigarettes, and I also used to see him in MRS. DONATH'S store when I would make purchases there. I now know that this fellow referred to above by MRS. DONATH is WILLIAM WERNECKE.

"WERNECKE occupied Room 39 at the Swiss Club, 635 West Webster Street, for four days from August 31st until September 3rd, 1942, inclusive, for which the charge was 75¢ a day. MR. DONATH paid me sometime last week for the use of this room, and at the same time paid me for the keys which MR. DONATH said WERNECKE had lost, at the same time remarking that WERNECKE had forgotten to pay me for the use of the room. WERNECKE did not register as a guest at the Swiss Club as we have no registration system. We have a few rooms available at all times for the friends of members but we do not have them register.

"I would like also to state that MRS. DONATH used to talk to everybody expressing her pro-Nazi beliefs, but since the war has started involving the United States, she has been inclined to watch her step, and her sentiments have not been so freely expressed. But I firmly believe that MRS. DONATH'S heart and soul was for HITLER at least prior to the war, and in all probability even at the present time. Every time reports would come in of German successes, MRS. DONATH would remark in a joyful manner 'Look at what HITLER is doing.' MRS. DONATH used to listen to short wave broadcasts from Germany all the time prior to the United States' entrance into the war. The last time I had recollection of MRS. DONATH listening to the short wave broadcasts was last summer or fall. I would like at this time to state that MRS. DONATH remarked to me when she requested a room for WILLIAM WERNECKE, that she didn't have enough room in her house to put him up. I have known the DONATHS since May, 1940, when I became manager of the Swiss Club. My bartender, HUGO WEILER, who also resides at the Swiss Club, knows a great deal more about the DONATHS than I do, as he often informs me of incidents concerning them. For example he recently told me that MR. DONATH is out of a job at the present time. I believe, MR. WEILER is a naturalized citizen having been born in Switzerland.

"An individual by the name of CARL LECHNER, whose address is unknown to me, whom I do not think is a citizen, is in my estimation definitely pro-Nazi. He has made remarks to the effect that HITLER has created a wonderful army and is remapping Europe for the best of everybody and that HITLER is going to show the United States where to get off. LECHNER used to come into the Swiss Club quite frequently, but he has not frequented my establishment for the past six months. He used to come into the Swiss Club accompanied by HENRY ALVERS, who in my estimation is also pro-Nazi, as ALVERS, whenever the war question comes up, praises HITLER in the same manner that LECHNER does. ALVERS, to the best of my knowledge, operates a restaurant on the east side of Lincoln Avenue near Halsted.

"The following to the best of my recollection is a description of CARL LECHNER:

"Age	About 35
Height	5'9" or 10"
Weight	175 lbs.
Hair	Dark
Cheeks	Rosy
Complexion	Nice
Accent	Slight German
Marital Status	Married with one child

"The following to the best of my recollection is a description of HENRY ALVERS:

"Age	40 to 45
Height	5'7"
Weight	145 to 150 lbs.
Hair	Black
Eyes	Brown or black
Complexion	Dark
Accent	Weak German accent
Birthplace	Germany
Marital status	Married

"I, also, at this time would like to state that CARL or HERMAN GMOEHLING, who operates a restaurant next to the barber shop on the south side of Webster Street near Larrabee and Lincoln is also in my estimation pro-Nazi and hangs out in the DONATH'S residence a great deal. I, on many occasions, used to eat in his establishment and there is a certain crowd (names unknown), who hang out in this restaurant, who continually discuss the war situation and are prone to express many pro-Nazi sentiments. I would describe GMOEHLING as follows:

"Age	40
Height	5'7"
Weight	150 to 160 lbs.
Hair	Blond
Complexion	Light
Accent	Strong German accent
Peculiarities	Nervous temperament
Marital status	Married, no children
Birthplace	Germany

"I have read the above statement consisting of this and three additional pages, and it is true to the best of my knowledge and as evidence of its truth I affix my signature to this page and intitial those preceding."

/s/ ERNST SCHAEUBLIN

WITNESSED:
J. BRADY MURPHY, SA, FBI, Chicago
JOHN MOORE, SA, FBI, Chicago.

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents JOSEPH E. TIERNEY, JR. and RALPH F. McCAY.

MRS. LUCILLE WALLACE, nee CAIN, 924 North Jackson Street, Waukegan, Illinois, stated that she and her husband operated a small grocery store in the vicinity of the WERNECKE farm in Wodsworth, Illinois in 1939, and for three or four months in the Spring of 1939, MRS. WALLACE, as a favor to MISS MONA MARSHALL, assisted the latter in excerising the horses stabled on the WERNECKE farm. MRS. WALLACE advised that she had been in the farm house on only three occasions, but that while there she had seen a large picture of HITLER on the wall. She stated that the picture was about 1½ x 2½ feet; and that there was one flag on each side of the picture. MRS. WALLACE was not able to recall the type of flag.

MRS. WALLACE stated that on several Sundays she has passed by the WERNECKE farm and noticed that there were three or four men and women indulging in target practice with pistols on the farm.

Newspaper clippings from the Chicago Daily Times and the Chicago Evening American both dated Tuesday, May 24, 1938, stating that WILLIAM WERNECKE, representing the German American Bund, had caused a warrant to be issued for the arrest of the editor of KEN magazine, charging him with violating the laws prohibiting the circulation of obscene literature, were furnished by Confidential Informant T1. Photostatic copies of these newspaper clippins are being retained in the files of the Chicago Field Office.

In an effort to verify the information stated in the newspaper clippings, the following investigation was conducted by Special Agent SAMUEL B. BLASKEY on September 18, 19,21,23, 1942. The records in the office of the Clerk of the Municipal Court in Chicago (which was the court mentioned in the above newspaper clippings,) contained in Room 814, City Hall, Chicago, and in Room 1010 (the vault) City Hall, Chicago, were examined and failed to reveal any notation of a warrant having been issued by the court against ARNOLD GINGRICH, the editor of KEN magazine.

MR. WILFORD CUMMINGS, Secretary and Assistant to Chief Justice of the Municipal Court, Judge J. EDWARD SCHEFFLER, advised that if the records of the Municipal Court did not disclose the issuance of this warrant, then the case would appear in the records of the police commissioner.

CAPTAIN CONLISK, Assistant to the Police Commissioner, advised that they do not have any records of warrants issued. However, at Room 600 at the Police Department Building at 11th and State Streets in Chicago, it was ascertained that on May 26, 1938, Warrant #18564 was issued by JUDGE EUGENE J. HOLLAND against ARNOLD GINGRICH, 919 North Michigan Avenue, charging him with a violation of Section 468, Chapter 38, (state law prohibiting the circulation of obscene literature). That warrant was issued out of Branch 27 of the Municipal Court, and was sent to the 35th District Police Station and was received by Patrolman L. JENSEN. SERGEANT ROBERT RYAN of the 35th District advised that the warrant record book for 1938 in which would be recorded the receipt of the warrant against ARNOLD GINGRICH, was no longer at the police station, but was in the warehouse.

The warrant record book for the 35th District was made available at the police warehouse at 3150 South Sacramento Avenue by WILLIAM J. CARROLL, Room 402, 11th and State Streets, and the information contained therein is exactly the same as that obtained in Room 600 at 11th and State. The reason for examining this warrant record book was to ascertain the document number of the case in order to examine the original warrant. However, no document number was set forth in the warrant book for this particular case. There was a notation on the warrant book, however, that this warrant was returned Branch 27 on order of JUDGE HOLLAND on June 29, 1938.

The clerk of Branch 27, MR. SWEENEY, advised that the document number of this particular case was #156874. CLAUDE DYCKMAN, Supervisor of Court Records in the office of the Clerk of the Municipal Court, furnished the original complaint and docket sheet in case #156874, entitled "People of the State of Illinois against ARNOLD GINGRICH." The person to be served with the subpoena duces tecum in case the same is necessary at trial is JOSEPH L. GILL, clerk of Municipal Court of Chicago.

The complaint warrant and docket sheet obtained from MR. DYCKMAN were photostated and photostatic copies are being retained in the Chicago files. They indicate that on May 24, JUDGE HOLLAND issued a warrant for the arrest of ARNOLD GINGRICH for the publication of obscene literature, which warrant was issued upon a complaint filed by WILLIAM WERNECKE. No mention is made in the complaint that WILLIAM WERNECKE represented the German American Bund or anyone else.

In an effort to ascertain whether or not ARNOLD GINGRICH knew of his own personal knowledge whether or not this complaint was filed by WERNECKE on behalf of the Bund, Agent interviewed ARNOLD GINGRICH, who is the editor of ESQUIRE magazine, in his office at Room 320, 919 North Michigan Avenue. MR. GINGRICH advised that he was in Europe at 1938 at the time the warrant was issued, and that when he returned about the middle of June 1938, a police officer tried to serve him with the warrant, but never did serve him. MR. GINGRICH said he never saw the complaint nor the warrant nor did he ever see or speak to WILLIAM WERNECKE. He advised that subsequent to the time that the police officer tried to serve him with the warrant, he never heard any more about the case.

ALFRED SMART, Secretary and Treasurer of ESQUIRE, INC. 919 North Michigan Avenue, telephone Delaware 6622, advised that they do not have a copy of the complaint and warrant, but that they were able to have JUDGE HOLLAND recall the warrant in June of 1938.

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent SAMUEL B. BLASKEY on September 23, 1942. The records of the Moody Bible Institute which are described in an earlier report in instant case were obtained forthe purpose of making a photostatic copy for instant file.

Reverend WILLIAM HENRY LEE SPRATT, Director of the Correspondence School at Moody Bible Institute, 153 Institute Place, furnished the records of the Correspondence School relating to subject WERNECKE and Reverend A. FRANKLIN BROMAN, Superintendent of men at Moody Bible Institute, 153 Institute Place, furnished the remainder of the records of Moody Bible Institute concerning subject WERNECKE, which records include WERNECKE'S application. These records were furnished with the permission of MR. E. C. CHRISTIANSON, Business Manager of Moody Bible Institute.

The persons able to introduce these records into evidence at the trial and to be served with a subpoena Duces tecum for the appearance thereof are REVEREND SPRATT for the Correspondence School records, and REVEREND BROMAN for the remainder of records.

Photostatic copies of these records are being retained in the files of the Chicago Field Office.

By teletype dated September 17, 1942, the Chicago Field Division requested the Washington Field Division to advise the names of the person to be subpoenaed to produce necessary records and testify that the Christian Ministry College and Reverend ROBERT HOOD are not reflected by city directories of the District of Columbia for the years 1915 to 1941.

It was requested that the name of the person who could testify that the Christian Ministry College was not incorporated in the District of Columbia, be furnished likewise.

The Washington Field Division was further requested to furnish the name of the person who can produce records and testify as to VERNECKE'S membership in the National Rifle Association and as to his correspondence with same. It is further requested that the Washington Field Division furnish the name of the person who can produce records and testify as to VERNECKE'S attendance at the United States National Small Arms Firing School and national matches at Camp Perry, Ohio, in 1931.

The Washington Field Division was also requested to ascertain if the Allied Christian Management Army, also known as Allied Churches of Christ, was incorporated in the District of Columbia. The Washington Field Division was requested to ascertain if EARL PAUL RICHTER, alleged minister, is listed in any city directory of the District of Columbia from 1915 to 1941.

By teletype dated September 18, 1942, the Washington Field Division advised that an examination of Boyd's District of Columbia Directory from 1915 to 1942 in the office of its publisher, R. L. Polk and Company, reflected no listing for the Christian Ministry College; Allied Christian Management Army; or Allied Churches of Christ. It was observed that numerous persons named HOOD and RIDGWAY were listed. It was observed also that no ROBERT HOOD was listed as minister, and that no EARL PAUL RIDGWAY or PAUL RIDGWAY was found. It was further reflected that no EARL RIDGWAY was listed as minister.

The Washington Field Division further advised that the person to subpoena to introduce directories is A. E. PERLIN, Manager, or MRS. VIOLET CRUZAN, Librarian, R. L. Polk & Company, 902 F Street, Washington, D. C. The Washington Field Division also advised that no record of incorporation at any time was found in the office of the Recorder of Deeds in Washington, D. C., for the Christian Ministry College; the Allied Christian Management Army; or the Allied Churches of Christ.

In that connection the person to be subpoenaed was shown to be one WILLIAM J. THOMPKINS, Recorder of Deeds, 6th and D Streets, N. W., Washington, D. C. It was also stated that L. QUENTIN BRADLEY,

Assistant Secretary, or FRANK CLIFTON DANIEL, Office Manager, National Rifle Association, 1600 Rhode Island Avenue, N. W., Washington, D. C., are the proper persons to be subpoenaed relative to records of that office.

The Washington Field Division further advised that COLONEL FRANCIS C. ENDICOTT, Director, or SADIE E. ROBERTS, Chief Clerk, Office of Civilian Marksmanship, War Department, D. C. Armory, Washington, D. C. are the proper persons to be subpoenaed relative to records of that office.

On September 15, 1942, E. RICHTER furnished a copy of a letter dated September 9, 1942, which he had written to WILLIAM B. WERNECKE. This letter scolds and reproaches WERNECKE in ambiguous terms for being a spoiled child and urges him to return to Christ. The aforementioned copy of letter dated September 15, 1942, is being retained in the files of the Chicago Field Division.

By teletype dated September 22, 1942, the Bureau was advised that the U. S. Commissioner's hearing relative to WILLIAM B. WERNECKE set for 11:00 a.m. September 22, 1942, was postponed by agreement between the Assistant United States Attorney, JOHN M. KIELEY, and WERNECKE'S attorney, to October 6, 1942, at 2:00 p.m. WERNECKE'S attorney confidentially advised Assistant United States Attorney KIELEY that WERNECKE would plead guilty after being indicted.

Assistant United States Attorney furnished the Chicago Field Division with a letter dated August 17, 1942 addressed by RICHTER to the Grand Jury of the District Court of the United States, Northern District of Illinois and to the United States District Attorney. This letter sets out in lengthy detail the names of persons both living and dead, who could be used as reference by RICHTER as to his character and integrity. The list covers persons known to RICHTER from 1914 to the present date. A photostatic copy of said letter is being retained as an exhibit in instant file.

Assistant United States Attorney WILLIAM CONNOR furnished a copy of a letter dated Wednesday, September 16, 1942, addressed to WILLIAM B. WERNECKE, 6250 Wayne Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, and signed by E. P. EMANUEL RICHTER. This letter informed WERNECKE that he was no

longer an ordained minister or student in connection with RICHTER'S church inasmuch as WERNECKE had been guilty of insubordinate behavior and had "flunked." his examinations.

A photostatic copy of said letter is being retained in the files of the Chicago Field Division.

By letter dated October 5, 1942, the Bureau was furnished a copy of the "Deutsche Arbeit" obtained from WERNECKE'S home on September 5, 1942 by Special Agent PENNEL V. ROBE. The Bureau was requested to return said book to the Chicago Field Division on completion of its examination. By letter dated September 24, 1942, JOHN P. CASPERSEN, Chairman of Selective Service Local Board #2, Lake County, Libertyville, Illinois, furnished additional information relative to WERNECKE which had recently been placed in WERNECKE'S Selective Service folder. This information included a copy of WERNECKE'S occupational questionnaire and an affidavit furnished by [redacted] This affidavit is set out as follows:

[redacted]

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b7D

This affidavit was notarized by [redacted] Notary Public, Cook County, Illinois. Local Selective Service Board #2 also made available a copy of a letter dated September 23, 1942, signed by [redacted] Attorney for WILLIAM B. WERNECKE. This letter advises that [redacted]

[redacted]

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The aforementioned documents received from Local Selective Service Board #2 are being retained in the file of instant case.

It should be noted that under FBI No. 2970391 subject has the following criminal record in the Identification Division of the Federal Bureau of Investigation:

Contributor	Name and Number	Arrested or Received	Charge
BFD, Chicago, Ill.	WILLIAM WERNECKE #25-5976	Inquiry 8/8/42	
BFD, Chicago, Ill.	WILLIAM BERNARD WERNECKE #25-5976	9/5/42	Selective Service

WM. WERNECKE, Chicago, Ill. 1937 D.C.; appealed.

By teletype dated September 21, 1942, the Chicago Field Division advised the Dallas FieldDivision that subject attended St. Albans School at Sycamore, Illinois in 1921 or 1922 at which time CHARLES L. STREET was Headmaster. STREET was located at Christ Church, 108 South Lewellyn St., Dallas, Texas.

The Dallas FieldDivision was requested to contact CHARLES L. STREET for the school record of WERNECKE to verify WERNECKE's date and place of birth, parents' names and previous schools attended. It was also requested that it be ascertained if WERNECKE took any courses in preparation for the Ministry.

By teletype dated September 22, 1942, the Dallas FieldDivision advised the Chicago Field Division that Doctor CHARLES L. STREET had advised that subject's mother's name was given as MRS. MARTHA WERNECKE, 1718 North LaSalle Street, Chicago, and that the prior school attended by subject was Stevensville High School at Stevensville, Michigan. Subject did not take any courses in preparation for the Ministry. Subject took the regular High School course during late 1921 and 1922 and early 1923. Subject failed in all courses.

The Dallas FieldDivision further advised that if additional information should be desired, it would be advisable to contact Reverend L. B. HASTINGS, 1006 South 28th St., Milwaukee, Wis., inasmuch as HASTINGS had been Head Master at St. Albans from 1921 to 1923.

- PENDING -

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

THE CHICAGO FIELD DIVISION

At Chicago, Illinois, will follow prosecutive action in instant case.

- PENDING -

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANT T1 is

[redacted]

b7D

DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM:
FBI AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE
DATE 11-25-2011

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Kramer
Mr. McGuire
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy
Files

Federal Bureau of Investigation

United States Department of Justice

Chicago, Illinois
September 30, 1942

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Re: WILLIAM BERNARD WERNECKE
SELECTIVE SERVICE

Dear Sir:

In connection with the above-captioned case, Confidential Informant [] advised that on August 30, 1942, at 4:35 P.M. RICHTER called a doctor and they discussed three men that RICHTER needed as a reference. RICHTER gave COLONEL DONOVANATTA and WILLIAM O. RICHTER told the doctor that he wanted to see him the next morning because WILLIAM O. wanted a letter for committee meeting Monday night. RICHTER told him that he was going on the night shift that night. b7D

Confidential Informant [] further advised that on September 3, 1942, at 6:30 P.M. RICHTER again called the doctor and they discussed RICHTER being questioned. RICHTER told the doctor that he was doing the best he could according to his understanding and conscience. RICHTER was to go before the grand jury at 10 A.M. the next morning. b7D

DEFERRED RECORDING

The Bureau is advised that the above information covers a period from August 30, 1942, through September 3, 1942. Confidential Informant [] has not furnished any additional information inasmuch as RICHTER has been out of his office the majority of the time. b7D

Also in connection with the above-captioned case, Confidential Informant [] advised that on September 14, 1942, at 9:30 P.M. MRS. WERNECKE talked with SYLVIA. SYLVIA discussed her citizenship examination and told Mrs. WERNECKE that Mr. KLAMP or CLAPP (?) and MR. DARRINGER were going with her. They then discussed a visit by some individual whose name was not mentioned. SYLVIA said, "Some other guy that I never heard of, and I am sure that he never heard of him either". MRS. WERNECKE told SYLVIA that she would come to see her but that she didn't have time. SYLVIA told her that she was not working at the present time. b7D

~~Confidential Informant~~ [] further advised that on September 15, 1942, several people inquired about the health of Mrs. WERNECKE. On September 16, 1942, according to the Informant, at 10:10 A.M. a woman talked to BILL, and BILL b7D

FOR VICTORY BUY UNITED STATES SAVINGS BONDS AND STAMPS

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INDEXED 1151
18 OCT 8 1942

told her that he was working on the case and that the Jews were trying to put him away. BILL said that he would have his mother talk to her. At 10:15 A.M. on this same date JOHN talked to Mrs. Wernecke. She told him that BILL was going to a doctor almost every day; and that he was going at 3 P.M. on that date. At 12:30 P.M. on this same date MRS. WERNECKE again talked to JOHN and told him that she was taking BILL to the doctor on Barry Avenue at 3 P.M. and that she would meet JOHN at the Plaza Hotel at 4 P.M.

Confidential Informant [] further advised that on September 17, 1942, several individuals inquired about the health of Mrs. WERNECKE. On September 19, 1942, according to the Informant, MRS. WERNECKE talked to Mrs. ROSSINI (this woman apparently lives in one of Mrs. WERNECKE's apartments on Wells Street). MRS. WERNECKE told MRS. ROSSINI that on Tuesday morning the case comes up in court; and that she is just waiting to see what happens. She said that it will be a little hearing Tuesday and then it will probably be set for another time. b7D

The Bureau is advised that the above information furnished by [] covers a period from September 13, 1942, through September 20, 1942. b7D

In connection with the above-captioned case, Confidential Informant [] advised that on September 15, 1942, at 1 P.M. BILL called Dearborn 9090 and talked to LARRY JACOBS. Mrs. DONATH also talked to LARRY and told him that she had received his letter and that he should do whatever he wants to. LARRY said, "We will go after those fellows and sue them". BILL then talked to LARRY and they discussed BILL's case being set for the 22nd. LARRY told BILL that he had talked to CONNOR and it had been agreed that BILL would probably be indicted before the case came up for hearing. LARRY said "You are not going to be arrested again, he told me that he would let me know and we could change the bond over on the indictment". LARRY then told BILL that he could not ask CONNOR too many questions; and that the best time to talk about what to do would be after the indictments were returned. b7D

Confidential Informant [] advised that there was nothing of any importance to report for September 16 through 21, 1942. Confidential Informant [] advised that on September 22, 1942, at 6:30 P.M. MRS. WERNECKE talked to Mrs. DONATH and made arrangements to meet her over near the Grant Hospital at 8:10 P.M. Confidential Informant [] further advised that there was nothing of any importance to report forSeptember 23, 1942. b7D

The above information as submitted by Confidential Informant [] covers a period from September 15, 1942, through September 23, 1942. In view of the information as furnished by the above informants in connection with this case, it is deemed advisable to continue their services. b7D

Very truly yours,

A. H. JOHNSON
Special Agent in Charge

PVR/OP
25-5976

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
POST OFFICE BOX 812
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Kramer
Mr. McGuire
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy
Files

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

October 9, 1942

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir: Re: CON FILE

The following is a summary of information obtained from Confidential Informant [redacted] b7D

Confidential Informant [redacted] advised that on September 29, 1942, an individual named JOHN called BILL WERNECKE. BILL is to see that party at 10 o'clock and he says his mother wanted to know if JOHN wanted to go with him or not. BILL doesn't think it is necessary. b7D

Confidential Informant [redacted] advised that on September 30, 1942, LARRY JACOBS talked to BILL WERNECKE and Mrs. DONATH advised him to call BILL at Briargate 8824. LARRY stated he was glad that the new lawyer was hired because it would give the case dignity. b7D

~~DEFERRED RECORDING~~

This Informant advised that at 1:15 P.M. on the same date BILL WERNECKE called Mr. SMITH, Pensacola 4551, who was not in and he asked that SMITH call him back.

This Informant advised that at 2:15 P.M. on the same date Mr. SMITH called BILL WERNECKE and BILL said he would be down there in a half-hour. At 2:30 P.M. Mrs. DONATH called Mrs. WERNECKE who stated she did not feel very well. Mrs. WERNECKE thinks she is going to have a nervous breakdown. Mrs. DONATH says BILL is going to see that man now. Mrs. DONATH will see her later.

At 4:30 P.M. BILL called MARCELL long distance, Waukegan, Illinois, Ontario 4040, Extention 25. BILL asked if she has a date tonight. She says no. He will be out to see her.

The same Informant advised that on October 1, 1942, Mr. PHIPPIN, or Pfiffian, (phonetic) called BILL WERNECKE. BILL stated he was getting financial help

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6 OCT 15 1942

Director October 9, 1942

from his uncle and he hasn't been able to come to a setlement with him as yet. PHIPPIN thinks he can do him more good than any other guy in town because he knows him and knows all the angles and knows the kind of a defense that has to be made. BILL says he will keep him in mind.

The same Informant advised that on October 2, 1942, BILL called Judge LUKE'S Court and talked to JOHN. JOHN said he would meet him at 11 A.M.

At 11:50 A. M. on the same day Mrs. WERNECKE called Mrs. DONATH and said that SMITH wants the $1,500.00 right away. Mrs. DONATH says that is awful. WERNECKE stated she thought because there is a $5,000.00 cash bond they think they can get it. She is going to try and fix that by having her property put up and getting her cash back. Mrs. DONATH cannot understand how they can punish poor innocent BILL like that. Mrs. DONATH says he is 100% American for the good of his country.

Inasmuch as the information presently being received from Confidential Informant [redacted] is of considerable value to the successful prosecution of this case, it is recommended that his services be continued for the present. b7D

Very truly yours,

A. H. JOHNSON
Special Agent in Charge

JWK:DB

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

FILE NO. 98-107

REPORT MADE AT	DATE WHEN MADE	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE	REPORT MADE BY
GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN	10/6/42	9/2/42	HERMAN WALTER MADDOX

TITLE	CHARACTER OF CASE
GEORGE JOHN DASCH, with aliases, et al; WILLIAM WERNECKE, with aliases.	SABOTAGE SELECTIVE SERVICE

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Signed statement of CHARLES HENRY HEDLER set forth denying use of aliases or that he had corresponded with Pelley Publishers. Denies correspondence with CHARLES BRANDEL CRATE, secretary, Canadian Union of Fascists, Toronto, Canada. Denies any knowledge of aims and purposes of Allied Christian Management Army. Denies correspondence with Ku Klux Klan. Advises that E. PAUL RICHTER is loyal, patriotic citizen. States RICHTER is not ordained minister. Knows nothing about RICHTER'S activities, source of income, non-existent churches and has no knowledge of pen names used by RICHTER.

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- RUC -

REFERENCE: Teletype to Chicago Field Division, dated September 2, 1942.

Teletype from Chicago Field Division, dated September 2, 1942.

DETAILS: AT NEWAYGO, MICHIGAN

The following signed statement was secured by the writer from CHARLES HENRY HEDLER on September 2, 1942. The original statement was forwarded to the Chicago

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

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4 OCT 9 1942

5 - Bureau
2 - Chicago
2 - Grand Rapids

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U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 7-2034

(Grand Rapids file 98-107)

Field Division, September 2, 1942.

" September 2, 1942 "
Newyago, Mich

"I, Charles Henry Hedler, of Newyago, Mich, make the following written statement to Herman W. Maddox, who has made himself known to me to be a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. I know that I do not have to make this statement but I make it voluntarily and it is made without fear on my part and without threats from anyone and knowing that the same might be used against me.

"I am a retired Methodist preacher and I retired in 1938. I presently live at Newyago, Mich., and have lived here for the past four years. I formerly resided in and around Chicago for a period of thirty years. For a number of years I was not active as a minister for reasons of health. I worked for a number of years for the Cracker-Jack Company in Chicago. I held numbers of appointments in various methodist churches. I retired in 1938 from my preaching duties because I reached the retiremint age.

"During the past twenty years I have known E. Paul Richter. I first met him at Villa Park, Ill. He came out from Chicago to help the village board in the matter of sewage disposal. He claimed to have knowledge of engineering. From that time on I saw E. Paul Richter off and on until two years ago. The last time I saw him he was in Chicago. My wife was in the hospital there and I went to see Richter. I had made a loan to him in 1928 which he had failed to pay back. I needed the money and tried to collect it from him. He stated that he did not have the money. This is the last time I saw him and I have not heard from him since that time. I do not know what kind of work he was engaged in the last time I saw him.

"During my association with Richter I always found him to be a loyal and patriotic citizen. I have never heard him make an un-American statement or any statement that could be considered subversive. Richter was an individual who always had some plan to help the fellow who wasn't getting along well in life or wasn't getting along well in business. He organized the American Rangers, Inc. about 1924 or 1925. This organization existed then and supposed to be composed of young men and have for its purpose to aid in the election of public officers who would be opposed to Communism and anything that was un-American. I presume that I belonged to that organization although I did not attend any of its meeting. Richter told me I was a member. Richter organized the Christian Evangelical Lutheran Church. This was purely a religious movement as far as I know and was started about 4 years ago. I was notified by Richter that I had been made a member. I never attended any meeting and did not even answer Richter's letter about it. I do not know just what the aims and purposes of that organization was and I have never heard

anymore about it since the letter received from Richter. I have no knowledge of the Christian Ministry College. I do not know whether Richter organized such a college or not. I presume that Richter started the Allied Christian Management Army. I have heard of the organization but I cannot say just what the purposes and aims were. If I ever belonged to that organization I do not know anything about it. As far as I know this organization had no right to ordain ministers. As far as I know Richter has never been a regularly ordained minister. I never heard of his being an ordained minister. If he has ever been ordained I have no knowledge of the fact. During the years I knew him he never had a church. If he has any churches or organizations at the present time I do not know what their origin is or what the purpose of the same would be. I do not know what source of income Richter has. During the years I knew him I often wondered where he got his living. He did not have a job, except for odd jobs now and then. He was a peculiar type of individual and his great objective was always to find some way to help humanity. It is my opinion that was the reasons he organized the above stated movements but I was never able to see how one movement would aid the other.

"I have never heard of Richter using the name of Phillip Richards. I have never used that name. I have never used any other name than my own and as far as I know Richter has never used any name other than his own. I have never corresponded with the Pelley Publishers of Ashville, N. C. I know nothing about the Pelley Publishers or the "Silver Shirt" movement. I never corresponded with them at any time about anything and I know nothing about the cooperation of the Allied Christian Management Army being offered to the Pelley Publishers and I have never written to them for any literature. If anyone has ever used my name requesting literature or in writing to the Pelley Publishers it has been without my knowledge and consent. I have no knowledge of ever having served as Judge Advocate General of the Allied Christian Management Army in 1937 or any other year. I did not know the organization had such [illegible] and office and I know nothing about the organization. I have never corresponded with Charles Brandel Crate of the Canadian Union of Fascists of Toronto, Canada. I do not know anyone by that name and I have never heard of the Canadian Union of Fascists of Toronto, Canada. If anyone has used my name in writing to such an organization it has been without my knowledge and consent. I have never acknowledged receipt of a copy of the "Thunderbolt". I do not know what that is and I never offered any organization the cooperation of the Allied Christian Management Army because I never had anything to do with the organization. I never sent

(Grand Rapids file 98-107)

" "

any person an application blank for membership in that organization. I have never had any correspondence or connection with the Ku Klux Klan of Atlanta, Georgia, or any other place. I could not say whether Richter ever corresponded with such an organization or not. If anyone ever used my name in corresponding with the Ku Klux Klan at any time it has been without my knowledge or consent. I never tried to secure Richter a position with the Ku Klux Klan at any time or ever try to get him a position with anyone at any time. He never asked me to help him except when he borrowed a little money from me.

"I do not know whether Richter ever had any connection with the German-American Bund in Chicago or Milwaukee or not. I never heard him mention such a fact and never saw anything which would indicate that he did belong to such organization. I never heard of his being connected with the Ku Klux Klan or his ever having been an organizer for such an organization.

"I do not know what Richter is doing at the present time. It has been over two years since I have heard from him. I do not know what organizations he has at the present time. I am not a member of any organizations which he has at the present time. I know nothing about Richter's activities or just what he is doing.

"I do not have any letters in my possession from Richter and I do not have any records in my possession of any organization which Richter ever formed. I have never had any records of any of his organizations. I have received letters from him telling me that he had organized this or that organization but I never answered any of these letters.

"I have read the foregoing statement consisting of pages numbered 1 thru 4 and the same is true and correct according to my knowledge. I have initialed each page and sign the same voluntarily of the date the same bears date, in the presence of a witness.

/s/ Charles Henry Hedler

WITNESS:
/s/ Herman W. Maddox
Special Agent, F.B.I."

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
POST OFFICE BOX 812
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Kramer
Mr. McGuire
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy
Files

CONFIDENTIAL

October 9, 1942

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Re: CON FILE

The following is a summary of information obtained from Confidential Informant [redacted] b7D

Confidential Informant [redacted] advised that on September 29, 1942, BILL WERNECKE talked to County Judge LUKE'S Court and asked for JOHN, the Bailiff, who was not in. BILL left word that JOHN should call him when he came in later. b7D

Same Informant advised that on September 30, 1942, Mrs. WERNECKE talked to LARRY JACOBS. LARRY says he called up KIELY for an appointment but he couldn't make it today. LARRY says KIELY is supposed to call him back this afternoon for an appointment tomorrow. LARRY says the case looks good. He thinks they may have some good luck. He guesses they (U. S. Attorney) expected it to be a much tougher case than they thought. He asked her to have BILL call SMITH when he comes back and have SMITH call LARRY BACK.

DEFERRED RECORDING

On this same day BILL WERNECKE called his mother and asked how she is. BILL says they told him the fee would be $1,500.00. Mrs. WERNECKE says that isn't what JOHN told her, he said about $500.00. She says she cantt get hold of JOHN any more today.

This same Informant advised that on October 1, 1942, BILL WERNECKE called Judge LUKE'S Court for JOHN SAZZATO. BILL says the lawyers he went to see want $1,500.00. He thinks he would be better off giving LARRY $700.00 and letting him handle it alone. Mrs. WERNECKE talked to JOHN and stated that she doesn't think they should do anything until they hear from LARRY and whether or not he made an appointment with KIELY. She says she doesn't like to see LARRY get cheated. She says after all, he has done all the work so far. She asked who is going to take the alderman's place. JOHN says they don't know yet, it might be LUDER.

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6 OCT 22 1942

Director

October 9, 1942

Same Informant advised that on October 3, 1942, LARRY calls BILL WERNECKE. BILL got that MARCELL thing. LARRY asked if they have a letter from RICHTER and a list of things they took. BILL will drive over with it. BILL says, "What is her name might go away on a vacation so I want to get those statements out there as soon as I can." BILL will see LARRY shortly.

The same Informant advised that on October 5, 1942, BERTHA talked to Mrs. WERNECKE. Mrs. WERNECKE says she hopes they are getting the right lawyers. She doesn't want anything put over on her. Mrs. WERNECKE stated that the search of her house was illegal. All you have to do read the Fourth Amendment in the Constitution and you know they have no right to come into the house in the first place. BERTHA asked why she let them in. Because BILL thought they might take her for resisting otherwise. She says what comes has to come but we want to have the best lawyers so when it is all over she won't feel she didn't have the right thing.

The same Informant advised on October 6, 1942, a Dr. DEUTSCH talked to BILL WERNECKE. BILL says his mother has been very sick and that is why he hasn't been over to see the Doctor. Dr. DEUTSCH stated he has a hearing today and is working at the induction center, Harrison 5315, part of the time and that if Mr. JACOBS wants him to be present at the court for his doctor's opinion as to the interpretation of his acts, etc. he should call him up.

It is to be noted that efforts are being made to ascertain the identity of the individual called Dr. DEUTSCH and the Draft Board that he is connected with.

Inasmuch as the information presently being received from Confidential Informan[redacted] is considered valuable to the successful prosecution of this case, it is recommended that his services be continued for the present. b7D

Very truly yours,

A. H. JOHNSON
Special Agent in Charge

JWK:DB

DLT:EH
Call Made: 10:30 a. m.
Dictated: 10:45 a. m.

October 15, 1942

FOR [illegible], D. M. LADD

[illegible] JOHN DOE,
with aliases, Et Al
ESPIONAGE

I telephonically communicated with Special Agent in Charge Johnson of the Chicago Office to inquire of him whether he was positive that Joaquin Hans Kauffmann was actually the brother of Mrs. Walter Kappe. He advised that Mrs. Walter Kappe's father has been interviewed and he is positive that Joaquin Kauffmann is a brother of Mrs. Walter Kappe. He further advised me that he was contemplating a technical surveillance on the Kauffmann home since it would appear logical that if Kappe came to this country he would contact the Kauffmanns. I told him that eventually we intended to instruct the Field to develop informants in each neighborhood where there were any persons who might be contacted by anyone coming to this country, but at this time I did not believe that a technical surveillance of the Kauffmanns was warranted.

He advised that the William O Kernecke investigation is proceeding along very nicely and that the man who has charge of the organization ordaining ministers is probably violating the Sedition Act and several persons probably will be arrested in connection with this investigation. He further advised that they had hoped to arrest Kernecke today, but are withholding such action in order to develop more information on him. He states there seems to be a strong possibility that Kernecke was responsible for the death of a girl on his farm a few years ago and that the Chicago Office is also inquiring into this angle, but they do not desire to reinterview Kernecke until all of the auxillary information in connection with the murder angle and other matters is run out. He advised that this matter is receiving continuous and expeditious attention.

Respectfully,

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Kramer
Mr. McGuire
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Nease
[illegible] Gandy

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Dubr. [illegible] Traynor
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
OCT 15 1942 [illegible] M.
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FIL

Federal Bureau of Investigation

United States Department of Justice

Post Office Box 812
Chicago, Illinois

October 16, 1942

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir: Re: WILLIAM BERNARD WERNECKE, with aliases
SELECTIVE SERVICE

Reference is made to Bureau letter dated September 23, 1942 transmitting copies of a letter dated September 8, 1942 received from GEORGE ROBERT BROWN in which he furnishes information with respect to ELIZABETH DILLING and WILLIAM WERNECKE and requests that he be paid as an Informant for the information furnished this office from time to time in the past.

MR. BROWN called at the Chicago Office at which time this matter was discussed with him and although it was felt that the information furnished by him for the past several years from time to time was not pertinent, it was felt desirable to compensate him in the amount of $10.00. A receipt was obtained for this compensation.

Very truly yours,

A. H. JOHNSON
Special Agent in Charge

EH:CH
25-5976

#2145238

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
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9 OCT. 19 1942

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EX-31

FOR VICTORY BUY UNITED STATES SAVINGS BONDS AND STAMPS

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

FILE NO. 25-5976

REPORT MADE AT	DATE WHEN MADE	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE	REPORT MADE BY
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS	10/23/42	9/23;10/22/42	LEO H. FRUTKIN LHF/pw

TITLE	CHARACTER OF CASE
WILLIAM BERNARD WERNECKE, with aliases	SELECTIVE SERVICE

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: NORMAN PETERS, reference for WERNECKE to Moody Bible Institute, in signed statement could not recall ever writing the Moody Bible Institute concerning WERNECKE. PETERS met WERNECKE in 1940 at America First meeting and has seen him only few times. He never associated with WERNECKE and knows nothing about his personal background. PETERS denies knowing WERNECKE and family for eight years. PETERS met RICHTER and attended one of RICHTER's church meetings. RICHTER asked PETERS if PETERS wanted to be a minister. PETERS refused. USA advised that hearing before US Commissioner, Chicago, was postponed to 10/30/42 by agreement with subject's attorney.

P.

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent LEO H. FRUTKIN, Chicago, Illinois, dated 10/6/42.

DETAILS: At Chicago, Illinois:

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14 OCT 26 1942

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5 - Chicago

cc #2

DEC 2 1942

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It has previously been noted that NORMAN PETERS was a reference for WILLIAM WERNECKE when WERNECKE applied for acceptance as a student at the Moody Bible Institute. Under date of September 23, 1942, NORMAN PETERS was interviewed by Special Agent SAMUEL B. BLASKEY and furnished the following signed statement, the original of which is being retained in the Chicago files:

"Chicago, Ill.
September 23, 1942

"I, NORMAN PETERS, freely and voluntarily make the following signed statement to Samuel B. Blaskey, who is known by me to be a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. He has made no threats or promises to me to cause me to sign this statement, and has advised me that I do not have to make this statement and that whatever I do say may be used against me in Court.

"I reside at 7722 S. Oglesby Avenue, Chicago, telephone South Shore 9243, and am employed by my brother, Fred Peters, who is in the business of dealing in welding supplies at 2612 South Indiana Avenue, Chicago, telephone Calumet 5613. I was born on April 23, 1904, at Cleveland, Ohio. I am single and reside with my parents. I registered with Selective Service Board 91 and have been classified in 4-F. I am a member of no organizations, although I am a member of the Second Presbyterian Church at 20th and Michigan, Chicago.

"In the spring of 1941, I attended a meeting of the America First Committee at the Auditorium Theatre, in order to hear Lawrence Dennis speak. I am not a member of this organization, nor have I ever been. I enjoy hearing speeches and was interested in what the America First Committee was doing. I also attended meetings of the Citizens' Committee to Keep America Out of War for the same reasons.

"While at the above mentioned America First meeting, I remarked to the man sitting near me in the same box that the speaker (Lawrence Dennis) was good. This man agreed with me, and introduced himself as Mr. Richter. He told me he was operating cooperative chain stores and that he had a religious group that held services every Sunday at their place on Mohawk Street near North Avenue. He asked me to attend his church services. About two weeks later, on a Sunday, I did attend one of them. Richter read chapters and verses out of the Bible and all present sang hymns. I did not see William

Wernecke there. I met Fred Brown, Martin Carlson, Fred Baker. Richter said to me then that a lot of what Lawrence Dennis had said at the America First meeting was true. Richter asked me if I would like to become a minister. He said he would like to have me become one. He said his reason was that the cooperative stores system was for church people only. He told me he was a minister. He did not say what I would have to do to become a minister or who would ordain me. I declined because I was too busy with my job to spend extra time in any organization. I never returned to any more meetings of Richter's church. I was always too tired from work.

"One day in 1939, I was leaving Riverview Amusement Park and was looking for a place where I could buy a glass of beer, and the only place that wasn't too crowded was Haus Vaterland at 3855 N. Western Avenue. I returned there during 1939 and 1940 to hear speeches and see movies. I had requested to be placed on their mailing list. I am not a member of the German American Bund, nor have I ever been. The movies I sawoften were German movies. I also purchased several inexpensive pamphlets at the counter there where pamphlets, leaflets, and papers were sold.

"At one of the America First Committee meetings about two years ago, William Wernecke introduced himself to me saying he had seen me at several meetings of America First and Citizens' Committee. That introduction took place at the table where America First literature was sold. He was not selling any of that literature. In the spring of 1941, he told me he was going to join Moody Bible Institute and said that he needed a few references and stated that he would be glad to have my name as a reference. I signed my name on a paper that he had there, and all that I can remember seeing on the paper is Moody. I did not read what I signed. That took place at an America First meeting. Wernecke told me he wanted to study religion to learn Christian ideals. That is all he said.

"I do not recall ever receiving any communication from Moody Bible Institute nor do I recall ever writing to them about anything. If any paper states that I have known Wernecke for eight years, it is not true. I have seen him only 4 or 5 times in the last two years, and then only at meetings of America First or Citizens' Committee. I have never seen him any other place. Nor are we members of the same church, and if any paper states that Wernecke and I belong to the same church, it is untrue. I do not know where Wernecke resides, except that it is on the north side. I do not know whether he is

married or single, nor do I know any other member of his family. Except for the fact that he told me he was in the real estate business, I do not know what his business is. We have never corresponded nor spoken to each other over the telephone. I do not know whether or not he ever travelled to a foreign country or to any part of this country. I do not know whether or not he ever supported any church, either spiritually or financially. If any document sets forth that I do know these things, that document contains false statements.

"I have never received any literature from Wernecke except America First Committee literature, which he gave to me. I have never heard him say anything about the selective service laws.

"I have read the above statement and have numbered and initialed each of the seven pages. The statement is the truth.

(signed) NORMAN PETERS

"WITNESS:
(signed) SAMUEL B. BIASKEY
Special Agent, F.B.I.
Chicago, Ill."

On October 22, 1942 Assistant United States Attorney JOHN M. KIELY telephonically advised that the hearing before the United States Commissioner, Chicago, was postponed to October 30, 1942 by agreement with subject's attorney.

- P E N D I N G -

UNDEVELOPED LEAD:

The CHICAGO FIELD DIVISION

At Chicago, Illinois, will follow prosecutive action in instant case.

- P E N D I N G -

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice

POST OFFICE BOX 812
CHICAGO ILLINOIS

October 23, 1942

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

RE: WILLIAM BERNARD WERNECKE
SELECTIVE SERVICE

ATTENTION: MR. ED FITCH

Dear Sir:

Confidential Informant [redacted] covering a period from October 3, 1942, to October 4, 1942, had nothing pertinent to report. b7D

It is recommended that coverage by Confidential Informant [redacted] be continued. b7D

Very truly yours,

A. H. JOHNSON
Special Agent in Charge

AIRMAIL SPECIAL DEVLIERY
25-5976
JBM:JR

RECORDED 61-8118-106X2
12 OCT 29 1942

51 NOV 7 1942

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Chicago, Illinois
October 26, 1942

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Attention: ED FITCH

RE: WILLIAM BERNARD WERNECKE
SELECTIVE SERVICE

Dear Sir :

Confidential Informant [redacted] advised that on October 5, 1942, BILL WERNECKE called MRS. DONATH and TRUDIE, requesting TRUDIE to type a certain paper and have it ready tonight because he had to have it for tomorrow. From the conversation it appeared that MRS. DONATH got angry at BILL WERNECKE and threw some paper into the fire which he now wants TRUDIE to type over again. TRUDIE said it would take hours and she has a date at 7:00 P.M. However, BILL WERNECKE finally prevailed upon MRS. DONATH to get TRUDIE to type this paper. b7D

This same informant advised that on October 7, 1942, LARRY JACOBS called MRS. DONATH and asked how he could get in touch with BILL. He said he wanted to see him about a witness he was to get for the trial. He wouldn't tell MRS. DONATH the name of the witness. He said he would tell her when he saw her. MRS. DONATH says BILL left five minutes ago.

On this same day, according to Confidential Informant [redacted], MRS. WERNECKE called BERTHA. MRS. WERNECKE says the psychiatrist told them about a case very much like theirs and all that happened was -- the man was sent back to the draft board and re-classified. MRS. WERNECKE says, "They are so busy over there with their dirty work. They have done so much they are so jammed up. I told them the day they were here that they should send those fellows to the army. You know that those guys aren't in the service because they love it. They are there because they don't want to go into the army. Any man, any cripple 50 years old could do what they are doing easily. They could do it better and with much more dignity. They opened up their eyes when they found that W. W. SMITH was in it." b7D

Later on the same day Confidential Informant [redacted] advised that JOHN conversed with MRS. WERNECKE. She says she went down to SMITH'S office today. JOHN says everything looks pretty good. She says "LARRY went over and it was continued." b7D

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Kramer
Mr. McGuire
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy
Miles

119

61-8118-106X3
B 1
8 NOV 4 1942

FOR VICTORY BUY UNITED STATES SAVINGS BONDS AND STAMPS

52 NOV 7 1942

RECORDED & INDEXED

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R95 MAY 20 1961

October 26, 1942

Confidential Informant [redacted] advised that on October 10, 1942 BILL WERNECKE called LARRY JACOBS. LARRY said he made arrangements for BILL to see SMITH today. LARRY asked if he saw MARCIE. BILL called her and it is okay but he will call her to see when she can come in to see him. LARRY wants to talk to her because he wants to find out from their line of questioning what they are trying to do. He says he knows what the F.B.I. has been trying to do and now he wants to find out what someone else has been carrying on. BILL will call him tomorrow. b7D

Confidential Informant [redacted] advised that on October 14, 1942, JOHN called MRS. WERNECKE and says he called to make them feel good. CAROUSO (phonetic) is here with me now. He gave me some good news again, very good." JOHN says "He told me it looks better and better all the time." MRS. WERNECKE says she feels better after hearing that. b7D

Confidential Informant [redacted] advised that the conversations hereinabove mentioned took place from October 6, 1942 to October 16, 1942. b7D

Inasmuch as the information presently being obtained from Confidential Informants [redacted] is considered valuable to the successful prosecution of this case, it is recommended that their services be continued for the present. b7D

Yours truly,

A. H. JOHNSON
Special Agent in Charge

AMSD

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice

POST OFFICE BOX 812
Chicago, Illinois
October 31, 1942

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. E. A. Tamm	
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Ladd	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tracy	
Mr. Carson	
Mr. Coffey	
Mr. Hendon	
Mr. Kramer	
Mr. McGuire	
Mr. Quinn Tamm	
Mr. Nease	
Miss Gandy	
Files	

177

PERSONAL AND ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

RE: WILLIAM BERNARD WERNECKE
SELECTIVE SERVICE

ATTENTION: MR. ED FITCH

Dear Sir:

Confidential Informant [redacted] advised that from October 16, 1942 to October 19, 1942 nothing pertinent to this case was developed. b7D

Confidential Informant [redacted] advised that nothing pertinent to this case was developed from October 19, 1942 to October 25, 1942. b7D

However, inasmuch as the information which has been received from the above named confidential informants has been valuable to the successful prosecution of this case, it is recommended that their services be continued for the present.

Very truly yours,

A. H. JOHNSON

Special Agent in Charge

JWK:GLK
100-5976

61-8178-106X4

F B I
15 NOV 9 1942

RECORDED & INDEXED

44 NOV 14 1942

5-GL

NOV 4 1942

Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy

THIS IS FBI WASH DC 0711

FBI CHICAGO 11-4-42 10-50 AM MG
DIRECTOR
DRINK. WILLIAM BERNARD WERNECKE WA SELECTIVE SERVICE. USA ADVISES CASE WILL BE PRESENTED TO GRAND JURY, CHICAGO ON NOVEMBER TEN, NINETEEN FORTY TWO.

JOHNSON
ACK AND HOLD
11-49 AM OK FBI WASH DC BLH

RECORDED 62-8118-106X5
1 NOV 6 1942
FIVE

55 NOV 20 1942

EX-21

November 6, 1942

EGF:MLC

SAC, Chicago

Dear Sir:

There are being returned herewith the yellow copies of your letters of October 31, 1942 in connection with the following cases:

RE: WILLIAM BERNARD WEINECKE;
SELECTIVE SERVICE

RE: EDUARD JULIO WENDT, was., et al;
ESPIONAGE - G

It appears that these copies were inadvertently forwarded to the Bureau by your office.

Yours truly,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Enclosure

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Kramer
Mr. McGuire
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy

NOV 6 1942

61-3118-106X6
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
NOV 10 1942
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

52 NOV 20 1942

NOV 12 1942

FBICHICAGO NOVEMBER 12, 1942 639 PM CWT GCW

DIRECTOR

SICK. WILLIAM BERNARD WERNECKE , WAS - SS. GRAND JURY AT CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, RETURNED INDICTMENT AGAINST THE SUBJECT TODAY CHARGING HIM WITH VIOLATION OF THE SELECTIVE ~~SERVICE~~ SERVIE ACT.

JOHNSON

END
7-36 PM OK FBI WASH DC ALB

RECORDED 61-8118-106 X7

NOV 27 1942

EX-35

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice

Post Office Box 812
Chicago Illinois

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. E. A. Tamm	
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Ladd	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tracy	
Mr. Carson	
Mr. Coffey	
Mr. Hendon	
Mr. Kramer	
Mr. McGuire	
Mr. Quinn Tamm	
Mr. Nease	
Miss Gandy	
Files	

November 7, 1942

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Attention: Mr. Ed Fitch

Dear Sir:

RE: WILLIAM BERNARD WERNECKE -
SELECTIVE SERVICE

Confidential informant [redacted] advised that nothing pertinent concerning this case was developed covering the period from October 25, 1942 to October 28, 1942. b7D

Confidential informant [redacted] advised that on October 21, 1942 IDA JURGUSON had the following conversation with MRS. WERNECKE. MISS JURGUSON stated that MR. HAAS (MRS. WERNECKE'S former employer) asked her to call. BILL WERNECKE, who answered the phone, advised his mother had been seriously ill since the FBI men were at their house. BILL said he has two lawyers representing him, namely, W. W. SMITH and JACOBS. BILL said he was ordained twice; that he is a minister, and attended a Christian Ministry College. He advised he had been a minister for the last three years. IDA suggested a man who might be able to help MRS. WERNECKE. His name is MR. PETER GEIBEL, telephone Boulevard 0284, and he resides at 5331 Wentworth Avenue. BILL stated he will call him and arrange to go out and see him. b7D

61-8116-106X8

RECORDED & INDEXED

This same informant advised that on October 22, 1942 BILL WERNECKE had the following conversation with W. W. SMITH. SMITH said there was a meeting but they would not get any place over there. He said - "It looke like they are going to indict and that they will go to the Grand Jury with it." BILL asked if they did anything on the oppression order yet. The answer was, no, I will tell you about it when I see you".

On this same date confidential informant [redacted] advised that BILL talked to PETER GEIBEL, hereinabove mentioned, and stated that MISS JURGESON of the Standard Oil Company referred him to him. GEIBEL said that he doesn't want to be a doctor because he is interested in research. He said, "the Government would have picked me off when I left them at Warm Springs, Georgia, on this infantile paralysis." Then he said - "I was the one who left President Roosevelt two years ago at Thanksgiving down there. b7D

FOR VICTORY BUY UNITED STATES SAVINGS BONDS AND STAMPS

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52 DEC 12 1942

203

Director 11/7/42
Re: William Bernard Wernecke

I did not need him and I told him so. He is no better than you are, Mister. You are going to find me a little peculiar when you see me. I was educated first in Germany, where I had about five years' training. I was born and raised in this country. I had four years at Ohio State and seven years at Mayos, and I want to stick to my research." GEIBLE said - "I understand you have had trouble with my friends. I have a cousin in that game. I left that game. I was with them but I left that game. I know Hoover well enough to tell him to go to hell. I may be able to give you some assistance on that and you can go out and smile at the world again. I talked to Senator Barton today and Senator George is going to call me tomorrow." GEIBLE said he was 62 years old now. BILL said he would be out to see him in the morning.

It is to be noted that efforts are being made to ascertain the character and reputation of the individual referred to as PETER GEIBEL and to determine his nationalistic sympathies.

This same informant advised that on October 24, 1942 BILL had the following conversation with MR. SMITH, his Counsel. BILL stated he was sorry he did not get in yesterday but would try to make it Monday. BILL said he got a subpoena to the Haupt trial the 26th but they are going to inform him. BILL stated he would be down Monday.

This same informant advised that on October 25, 1942 IDA JURGESON called SYLVIA. She inquired about MRS. WERNECKE'S health. She is suffering quite a bit. IDA said MR. GEIBEL told her that BILL talks too much but that he may be able to help him because he knows those people, has had lots of dealings and knows how to handle those cases.

Confidential informant [redacted] advised that the conversations b7D
hereinabove mentioned took place between October 19, 1942 and October 25, 1942.

It is recommended that the above coverage by confidential informants [redacted] be continued. b7D

Yours truly,

A. H. Johnson

A. H. JOHNSON,
Special Agent in Charge.

JWK:MJ
100-5976

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Post Office Box 812
Chicago Illinois

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. E. A. Tamm	
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Ladd	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tracy	
Mr. Carson	
Mr. Coffey	
Mr. Egan	
Mr. Kramer	
Mr. McGuire	
Mr. Quinn Tamm	
Mr. Nease	
Miss Gandy	
Files	

November 14, 1942

PERSONAL & ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir: RE: WILLIAM BERNARD WERNECKE -
SELECTIVE SERVICE

Confidential informant [redacted] advised that on October 27, 1942 MRS. DONATH talked to BILL WERNECKE and stated that she had tried to keep him out of all the trouble he got into but he would not listen to her. b7D

The same informant advised that on October 28, 1942 MR. GEIBEL called BILL WERNECKE concerning MRS. WERNECKE'S illness. BILL stated she was not feeling so well. MR. GEIBEL said he had to go down to the Director's Board meeting of Illinois on the fever for the Stock Yards people. BILL stated he would run out to see MR. GEIBEL at 6:00 PM tonight.

Confidential informant [redacted] advised that on October 29, 1942 BILL WERNECKE called LARRY JACOBS, one of his attorneys, who asked about MRS. WERNECKE'S health. LARRY advised that the hearing of Bill's case before the Commissioner would be postponed but he has to appear to save his bond. Bill said he would be down tomorrow morning at 10:00 AM and will go over with him. b7D

This same informant advised that on October 30, 1942 BILL WERNECKE had a conversation with MARCIE. She said she had a visitor yesterday. He asked who and she replied "a MR. MOORE". She said they just wanted to know about the past.

On this same date the above-named informant advised that WERNECKE spoke to a man named FRANK. BILL asked him if any of those salesman had been out - "you know who I mean". FRANK said "no". BILL said "they were around MARCIE asked about you yesterday so I thought I would tell you." BILL continued by stating - "I want to come out and see you but I don't want to scare you. You are not scared, are you?" FRANK said - "No, I have nothing to be scared of. I am not doing anything. In fact, I am trying to help the cause." BILL said the party's name was MOORE. FRANK asked him if he wanted to get the suit fixed up. BILL said - "yes, I will be out". Bill asked - "Have you seen the big boy?" FRANK said he had not. BILL

61-8118-106X9
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NOV 22 1942

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R95 MAY 26 1961

FOR VICTORY BUY UNITED STATES SAVINGS BONDS AND STAMPS

50 NOV 30 1942

E-13

said he had; that he saw everybody and knew everything.

It is believed that the person named MOORE referred to in the above conversation is an agent of the Chicago Field Division.

b7D

Confidential informant [redacted] advised that on November 3, 1942 a woman had a conversation with BILL WERNECKE. Bill said his mother is a little better today. She said they are going on their journey pretty soon. She said - "Who was that up there at St. Clair that you spoke about?" He said, "the shoe repair man, he is the publisher." She said - "Does he know who you are?" BILL said - "Tell him the man from Father Coughlin." She said - "What is he, a German?" Bill said, "He might be, I don't know. He is Father Coughlin's man up there. He wants me to bring him something." She asked - "What have they done with Father Coughlin?" Bill said - "They put a muzzle on him."

This same informant advised that on November 7, 1942 Bill WERNECKE called the Tire Rationing Board and said he had six tires but did not own a car. He asked if he had to register. The man replied that if he contemplated purchasing a car in the future he would have to register when he got the car.

b7D

Confidential informant [redacted] advised that the conversations hereinabove mentioned took place between October 26, 1942 and November 8, 1942.

b7D

It is recommended that the above coverage by confidential informant [redacted] be continued.

Very truly yours,

A. H. JOHNSON,
Special Agent in Charge.

JWK:MJ

25-5976

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice

Post Office Box 812
Chicago Illinois

November 20, 1942

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C. Attention: Mr. Ed Fitch.

Dear Sir: RE: WILLIAM BERNARD WERNECKE - 61-8118
SELECTIVE SERVICE
25-116017

Confidential informant [redacted] advised that on November 10, 1942 b7D
MRS. DONATH had the following conversations with BILL WERNECKE.

BILL said he has had trouble with his car because of the pouring rain yesterday. BILL asked her if she saw in the paper that MRS.HAUPT said GERDA was going to have a baby. She said yes. He said - "That is terrible, and if I had known that about her, I would not given him a ride in my car". He thinks that is awful. MRS. DONATH told him not to tell his mother and SYLVIA that she called.

Confidential informant [redacted] advised nothing further pertinent b7D
to this case was developed covering the period from November 7, 1942 to November 10, 1942.

It is recommended that the above coverage by confidential informant [redacted] be continued. b7D

Yours truly,

RECORDED & INDEXED
61-8118-106X10
12 NOV 30 1942

A. H. JOHNSON,
Special Agent in Charge.

JWK:MJ
25-5976

RECEIVED
FILES DIVISION

FOR VICTORY BUY UNITED STATES SAVINGS BONDS AND STAMPS

2 DEC 11 1942

5 ENC



Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Egan
Mr. Gurnea
Mr. Harbo
Miss Gandy

1941

Director
Assistant Director Clegg
Assistant Director Ladd
Assistant Director Nichols
Assistant Director Rosen
Assistant Director Tracy
Assistant Director Carson
Assistant Director Coffey
Assistant Director Egan
Assistant Director Gurnea
Assistant Director Harbo
Assistant Director Foxworth
Assistant Director Glavin
Assistant Director Hendon
Assistant Director Hoover
Assistant Director Kramer
Assistant Director Lester
Assistant Director Quinn
Assistant Director Tamm
Assistant Director Tolson
Assistant Director Walter
Assistant Director Winterrowd
Assistant Director Wintermeyer
Assistant Director Wyly

MG

FBI CHICAGO 11-19-42 2-27 PM

DIRECTOR

NINE. WILLIAM BERNARD WERNECKE, WAS, SS. WERNECKE TO BE ARRAIGNED NOVEMBER TWENTY THRE, NINETEEN FORTY TWO BEFORE JUDGE WILLIAM CAMPBELL.

JOHNSON

ACK AND HOLD
3-27 PM OL FBI WASH DC CL

DEC 15

61-8118

FBI

NOV 23

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Kramer
Mr. McGuire
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Nease

FBI CHICAGO 11-23-42 2-12 PM MG
DIRECTOR
TRAIN. WILLIAM BERNARD WERNECKE WAS SS. ARRAIGNMENT POSTPONED UNTIL ~~NONE XXX~~ MONDAY NOVEMBER THIRTIETH DUE TO DEATH OF WERNECKES MOTHER.
JOHNSON
ACK AND HOLD
3-10 PM OK FBI WASH CD

RECORDED 61-8118-106X11

F B I

NOV 25 1942

52 DEC 4 1942

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. E. A. Tamm	
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Ladd	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tracy	
Mr. Carson	
Mr. Coffey	
Mr. Ingram	
Mr. Kramer	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. C. H. Tamm	
Mr. Pease	
Miss Gandy	

November 27, 1942

PERSONAL AND ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
Attention: Mr. Ed Fitch

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

RE: WILLIAM BERNARD WERNECKE, [illegible]
SELECTIVE SERVICE ~~REFERRAL RECORD~~

Confidential Informant [redacted] advised that on November 11, 1942 Bill called W. W. SMITH regarding his case. Bill said that Doctor Deutch was going to Washington on Friday on a selective service matter and wanted to see Smith before he went because he did not know when he would be back. Bill says he is taking some plan there to abolish selective service. He is going to see General Hershey regarding some mobilization plan he has. Smith will get in touch with Deutch.

b7D

The same informant advised on November 12, 1942 LARRY JACOBS called Bill. He asked about MRS. WERNECKE. She is about the same. Larry says he ran into Rev rend CARLSON last week and he is looking well. Bill says he was over to see HANS DEUTCH and he is leaving for Washington with some plan to abolish selective service. He has examined eighteen thousand fellows now and he claims selective service is a failure. Bill says Deutch wants to see Smith before he goes. Larry will arrange it. Larry asked if he has testified for the Government yet. Bill does not think they want him. Larry says to tell Mrs. Scharf he has the check for her and to tell Ernie to think of a lot of fellows that he would want to use as witnesses when his case does come up to prove that he is a citizen. Bill asked if Larry sawthat picture the Tribune published of Mayor Kelly speaking under the swastika. Bill says he has some pictures of Kreutgen the Postmaster speaking at a swastika decked table, and he has some of Senator Tydings at the Germania Club. Kreutgen sat at the table with the German Consul and the German Military Attache and everybody and the swastika was all over. Larry says to bring him the pictures.

This same informant advised that on November 13, 1942 LARRY JACOBS called Sylvia and asked about Mrs. Wernecke. She is not very well today. He asked if Ernie is out of town. She says yes. He says he thought he could be thinking about who he could get and what they would testify to, that would do him some good to show he never intended to do anything other than be an American citizen.

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R 95 MAY 26 1961

FOR VICTORY
BUY UNITED STATES SAVINGS BONDS AND STAMPS

5 6 DEC 16 1942

RECORDED & INDEXED 61-140

61-8118-106X12
F B I
15 DEC 3 1942

EX-15

She asked if it should be someone he knew at that time. Larry says at that time and later. She asked if he could get a couple of continuances. He will do his best.

The same informant advised that on November 14, 1942 W. W. SMITH called Bill and asked if he saw the Tribune. Bill said yes. Smith says Monday they will have to go in there and sign the same bond. Smith said that he had a nice talk with that doctor yesterday.

Confidential Informant [] advised that the conversations hereinabove mentioned took place between November 10, and November 15, 1942. b7D

[] It is recommended that the above coverage by Confidential Informant be continued. b7D

Very truly yours,

A. H. JOHNSON,

Special Agent in Charge

JWK:JMS

25-5976

AIR MAIL - SPECIAL DELIVERY

Mr. Tolson
Mr. A. Tamm
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Kramer
Mr. McGuire
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy

FBI CHICAGO 11-30-42 1-21 PM
DIRECTOR

RAW. WILLIAM BERNARD WERNECKE, SS. ARRAIGNMENT CONTINUED TO DECEMBER THIRD NEXT ON REQUEST OF DEFENSE COUNSEL W. W. SMITH TO GIVE TIME TO DRAW UP A MOTION REQUESTING CHANGE OF VENUE TO ANOTHER JUDGE BECAUSE OF THE MENTION OF THE SUBJECTS NAME IN THE TREASON TRIAL BEFORE JUDGE CAMPBELL BEFORE WHOM SUBJECTS TRIAL IS PRESENTLY SET TO BE HEARD.

JOHNSON

END
OK FBI WASH DC CE

RECORDED

61-8118-106 X 13
F B I
15 DEC 2 1942

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

CC-287

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

January 23, 1943

JKM:PC
Received: 11:35 AM
Typed: 1:00 PM

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Kramer
Mr. McGuire
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Tele. Room
Mr. Nease
Miss Beahm
Miss Gandy

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. D. M. LADD

While talking with Assistant SAC Hosteny of the Chicago Office on other matters, I made reference to the attached memorandum relative to the discontinuance of the technical surveillance on William Wernecke.

I told Hosteny that it is the Bureau's understanding that SAC Drayton wants to keep this apartment available for future use in connection with technical surveillances and that he suggested that agents of that office be allowed to stay in this apartment in order to keep it within the Bureau's control. I advised that this would be perfectly all right with the Bureau on the condition that the agents paid their own rent; that the Bureau could not have two single agents living there and pay the rent for them. I advised that this would be more disagreeable than having a vacant apartment. I told him that if two agents of that office need a place to live, that since this place already has some furniture in it, it would be just as good to them as living in a rented room, so therefore, they could divide the rent between them and each pay $37.50 a month. I told him that the Bureau could not be in the position of indefinitely paying the rent for two agents.

Hosteny stated the only trouble with this arrangement is that if the agents went out to look for a place to stay, they would not pick this location; that they would go to some place more convenient; that this just isn't a spot that an agent would go to look for a place to live, so, therefore, they might be somewhat reluctant to pay $37.50 to live at this place.

Hosteny stated that this is an ideal spot for a technical surveillance; that it is centrally located; they have lines running in there; it is all ready to go when they need another technical and they would like very much to keep this place if possible.

I told Hosteny that in view of this, I would see what could be done about it and he would be advised.

RECORDED
61-8118-107
F B I
JAN 30 1943

Respectfully,

J. K. Mumford

Attachment

1/29/43 2:15 PM

ADDENDUM: Pursuant to the request of Mr. Tamm, I contacted the Chicago Office and spoke with Special Agent Dennis. I told Dennis that it was decided that the above apartment should be rented for another month and at the end of this time, the Bureau should be contacted again for further approval.

J. K. Mumford

58 FEB 6 1943

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

EGF:MLC
Call: 3:45 pm
Dictated: 9:45 am, 1-21-43

January 20, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. LADD

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Carson
Mr. Drayton
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Harbo
Tele. Room
Tour Room
Mr. Nease
Mr. Tracy
Miss Beahm
Miss Gandy

SAC Drayton called from Chicago to advise that our technical surveillance covering William Wernecke was discontinued Monday, January 19, 1943.

At this time Mr. Drayton pointed out that a special plant that has been maintained by the Chicago Office at 1521 Sherwin St. for a rental of $65 per month is no longer operating and there is no immediate need for the premises. He felt, however, that in view of the strategic location of this apartment and further in view of the difficulty in obtaining space in the Chicago area at this time that it would be advisable to continue our rental on that apartment for a few additional months in order that we may be equipped to handle any additional surveillances that are likely to become necessary in that area. Drayton stated that although he has no specific surveillance in mind at this time he feels that the extreme difficulty in obtaining space, should such become necessary in the near future, would warrant our holding the apartment for a few more months. He also suggested that if the Bureau is opposed to renting the apartment and having it vacant, consideration could be given to having an agent or two occupy the premises in order to keep it within the Bureau's control.

ACTION: Mr. Drayton was advised that this matter would be presented to you and that since our present lease on the premises does not expire for more than a month, he would be notified as to the procedure to be followed with respect to the continued rental of the plant site.

Respectfully,

E. G. Fitch

RECORDED

61-8118-108

8 JAN 30 1943

memo to Mr. Ladd 1/20/43

17 FEB 6 1943

J. EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

CC-287

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.
December 18, 1942

VWP:ETP

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Kramer
Mr. McGuire
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Tele. Room
Mr. Nease
Miss Beahm
Miss Gandy

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

RE: WILLIAM BERNARD WERNECKE
SELECTIVE SERVICE

As you will recall, William Bernard Wernecke was indicted by the Federal Grand Jury at Chicago, Illinois, on November 12, 1942, charging him with violation of the Selective Service Act. On December 14, 1942, the Chicago Field Division advised that Wernecke was granted a change of venue from Judge Campbell and the case was reassigned to Judge John P. Barnes. Wernecke was arraigned before Judge Barnes and entered a plea of not guilty, and trial was set for February 15, 1943.

Reference is made to my memorandum of September 4, 1942, wherein you were advised that investigation revealed that Wernecke was one of the first persons contacted by Herbert Haupt, executed German saboteur, following his return to Chicago from Germany. Haupt spent considerable time with Wernecke during the short time he was in Chicago prior to his apprehension; however no evidence was obtained during the investigation of Haupt to indicate that Wernecke furnished him any aid or assistance prior to Haupt's apprehension.

Haupt stated that Wernecke furnished him with a blank to be used in becoming an ordained minister of the Christian Evangelical Lutheran Church and suggested that Haupt join the Allied Christian Management Army of which organization Wernecke claimed to be an ordained minister. Wernecke likewise gave Haupt advice as to how to feign poor physical condition at the time of his physical examination.

Wernecke was born January 21, 1907, in Chicago, Illinois, and has resided there most of his life. He is a former member of the German-American Bund in Chicago and was former manager of the Aryan Book Shop at Bund Headquarters in Chicago. He is known to have received and distributed anti-Semitic and pro-Nazi literature from the Deutsche Fichte Bund in Germany. He also admits having taken Otto Willumeit and George Froboese, leaders of the German-American Bund in Chicago, to New York in December, 1938. On one occasion he is known to have exhibited a membership card in the Knights

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1 ENCLO. 15

JAN 19 1943

RECORDED

61-8118-109
F B I
15 DEC 21 1942

of the White Camellias and is likewise known to have written to William Dudley Pelley with respect to organizing a unit of the Silver Shirts.

As you will recall, at the time of the search of Wernecke's home and farm outside Chicago a quantity of ammunition and firearms were discovered as well as pro-German literature.

You will be kept advised of all developments in this matter.

Respectfully,

D. M. Ladd

DEC 14 1942

memo

BLH

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. E. A. Tamm	
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Ladd	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tracy	
Mr. Carson	
Mr. Coffey	
Mr. Hendon	
Mr. Kramer	
Mr. McGuire	
Mr. Quinn Tamm	
Mr. Nease	
Miss Gandy	

FBI CHICAGO 12-14-42 11-21 AM MG
DIRECTOR
FOOT. WILLIAM BERNARD ~~WERNOXXX~~ WERNECKE SS. CHANGE OF VENUE GRANTED FROM JUDGE CAMPBELL AND CASE REASSIGNED TO JUDGE JOHN P. BARNES. SUBJECT ARRAIGNED BEFORE JUDGE BARNES TODAY AND ENTERED PLEA OF NOT GUILTY AND FEBRUARY FIFTEENTH NEXT SET AS DATE OF TRIAL. ENCLOSURE
JOHNSON
ACK AND HOLD
12-20 PM OK FBI WA PP

2-5-16049
61-8118

RECORDED 61-8118-109
F B I
15 DEC 21 1942

Memo to Director
12-18-42
VWP

Federal Bureau of Investigation

United States Department of Justice

Chicago, Illinois
December 12, 1942

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. E. A. Tamm	
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Ladd	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tracy	
Mr. Carson	
Mr. Coffey	
Mr. Howden	
Mr. Kramer	
Mr. McGuire	
Mr. Quinn Tamm	
Mr. Nease	
Miss Gandy	
Files	

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Attention: ED FITCH

RE: WILLIAM BERNARD WERNECKE
SELECTIVE SERVICE

Dear Sir:

Confidential Informant [] advised b7D that on November 23, 1942 BILL WERNECKE called long distance Ann Arbor 125 to MR. REYNOLDS in the Maritime Building, not in, leaves message that MRS. WERNECKE died and is at ELLISONS in Chicago. She will be buried tomorrow at 3:00 P.M. He also asked that MR. REYNOLDS call at the bank.

On this same day, according to the aforementioned informant, MR. SMITH called BILL WERNECKE and said that the trial is postponed until next Monday. BILL will get in touch with him when the funeral is over.

Confidential Informant [] advised b7D that on November 27, 1942 BILL WERNECKE calls Ben's Electric Shop on Clark Street and gave his name as WERNER.

On this same day the above-named informant advised that WERNECKE called DR. DEUTSCH and advised that he is on the verge of a breakdown. He asks if he can see him tomorrow. DEUTSCH replied that he could, then added that he had talked to MR. SMITH today and they have come to an agreement about the whole situation and he has the questionnaire which SMITH wants.

Confidential Informant [] advised b7D the conversations hereinabove mentioned took place from November 23, 1942 to November 28, 1942.

It is recommended that the above coverage by Confidential Informant [] be continued. b7D

Yours truly,

RECORDED & INDEXED

61-8118-110

A. H. JOHNSON
Special Agent in Charge

DEC 23 1942

JWK:EFD
25-5976

FOR VICTORY BUY UNITED STATES SAVINGS BONDS AND STAMPS

RECORDING

50 JAN 18 1943

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice

Chicago, Illinois
December 16, 1942

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. [redacted]
Mr. Hewdon
Mr. Kramer
Mr. McGuire
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Keane
Miss Gandy
Files

PERSONAL AND ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

RE: WILLIAM BERNARD WERNECKE
SELECTIVE SERVICE

ATTENTION: MR. ED FITCH

Dear Sir:

Confidential Informant [redacted] advised that on November 21, 1942, BILL WERNECKE's grandmother called him. She asked if there was anything she could do. He said "No." His mother's funeral was to be Tuesday, and she was to be laid out at Ellison's at Granville and Western Avenues. b7D

On this same day, according to the Informant, BILL WERNECKE called a man and asked if LINDSEY (phonetic) was there. BILL asked if Reverend RICHTER was there. He does not live there any more. He asked where the Reverend CARLSON lived. The man did not know.

Confidential Informant [redacted] advised that on this same day Mr. SMITH called BILL WERNECKE and said that he was very sorry to learn of the demise of his mother. BILL asked if the hearing could be postponed. SMITH stated he believed so. SMITH stated he would not have to go there Monday. b7D

~~RECORDED RECORDING~~

Confidential Informant [redacted] advised that the conversations hereinabove mentioned took place from November 16, 1942, to November 22, 1942. b7D

It is recommended that the above coverage by Confidential Informant [redacted] be continued. b7D

Very truly yours,

S. J. Drayton

S. J. DRAYTON
Special Agent in Charge

INDEXED

61-8118-11

16 JAN 2 1943

56 JWK:MLB 1943

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice

Chicago, Illinois

December 19, 1942

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Henden
Mr. Kramer
Mr. McGuire
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Attention: Mr. Ed Fitch

Dear Sir:

RE: WILLIAM BERNARD WERNECKE
SELECTIVE SERVICE

Confidential Informant [redacted] advised that on December 1, 1942 Sylvia called Helen saying that Ernie is in Wisconsin now and so far everything is all right. Sylvia will try and get over to see her tonight. b7D

~~DEFERRED RECORDING~~

On this same day, according to the aforementioned informant, Marcella, Bill Wernecke's girl friend, called Libertyville 287W. Marcella tells her sister Ann that the man's wife out in Huntley is sick in bed and so they can't make them move. (Personally, Bill is going to have Marcella's father move out to his farm to take over the management of it.) Marcella will go out tomorrow on the train and explain to her mother and father.

Confidential Informant [redacted] advised that on this same day Marcella called Larry Jacob's home and talked to his wife, Betty, about her new job. b7D

Confidential Informant [redacted] advised that the conversations herein above mentioned took place from November 29, 1942 to December 2, 1942. b7D

It is recommended that the above coverage by Confidential Informant [redacted] be continued. b7D

RECORDED

Very truly yours,

61-8118-112

S. J. Brayton
Special Agent in Charge

JAN 6 1943

FOR VICTORY BUY UNITED STATES SAVINGS BONDS AND STAMPS

408

3 JAN 22 1943

JWK:MAM
25-5976

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice

Post Office Box 812
Chicago Illinois

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Kramer
Mr. McGuire
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy
Files

December 29, 1942

PERSONAL & ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C. Attention: Mr. Ed Fitch

Dear Sir: RE: WILLIAM BERNARD WERNECKE -
SELECTIVE SERVICE

Confidential informant [redacted] advised that on December 2, 1942 BILL WERNECKE called Carson's and asked if they had cards to thank people who sent flowers to a funeral. The girl at Carson's told BILL the Engraving Department took care of matters of this type. On this same date informant advised BILL called W. W. SMITH and made an appointment for 2:00 PM the same date. SMITH said he wanted a copy of the paper of November 24th. BILL said he would get it for him. SMITH asked BILL the date of his mother's death and BILL said she died on November 21st and was buried on November 24th. b7D

DEFERRED RECORDING

Confidential informant [redacted] advised that on December 2, 1942 MRS. DONATH called BILL. BILL said he has been very busy. She said she would like to see him, and that his case comes up at 9:30 the following morning but that they are going to ask for a different judge. b7D

Confidential informant advised that on December 5, 1942 LARRY JACOBS called BILL. BILL said he wanted a copy of the letter that was sent to the Draft Board for DR. DEUTSCH. LARRY said it was at SMITH'S office but that he will try to get a photostatic copy of it for him.

RECORDED & INDEXED 62-8118-113

Confidential informant advised that on December 7, 1942 BILL called LARRY JACOBS. LARRY said he would have the letter photostated that day, and said Judge BARNES has the case. BILL asked if he knew him and LARRY said he did. BILL said he had some letters for LARRY to read and that he will bring them down the next time he comes. BILL said he would like two more photostatic copies of the charter and LARRY said he would have them made. BILL said he would see LARRY the following day at 11:00 AM.

JAN 2 1943

FOR VICTORY BUY UNITED STATES SAVINGS BONDS AND STAMPS

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52 JAN 14 1943

Director 12/28/42

Informant advised that on December 7, 1942 a long distance call to Milwaukee,Wisconsin, Bluemont 4500, was made. ERNIE said he had to go to a funeral today but that he will be in early tomorrow (December 8) morning.

Confidential informant [] advised that on December 9, 1942 BILL called MARCELLA. He said he forgot the two most important letters - the one from Moody and the one without an address from ACMA, signed by CARLSON. MARCELLA said both letters are there. On December 10th, informant advised Grandma called BILL, and BILL said that things were pretty good. BILL said he spent the whole day with lawyers the previous day and "uncovered an awful lot of evidence to prove my innocence and I hope to uncover more". BILL said BERTHA is very nervous and really needs a rest. He said she should have a nurse instead of WILL. BILL said he would keep in touch with her. b7D

Confidential informant [] advised that on December 12, 1942 MR. SMITH called BILL and said the case was set for Monday morning and told BILL to be at his office at 9:30 AM. On this same date LARRY called BILL and said he has the papers for BILL. BILL said he would get them Monday and open up the account. LARRY asked about the bank accounts for the inventory. BILL said he would look up the bank books. He said the First National has approximately four andthe Bank of Montreal has three. LARRY said he was up to see the people at the Moody Bible Institute and they sent him to CHRISTENSON (phonetic), but that they told him to wait and he did not have time. BILL asked if they are going to cooperate. LARRY said, "To this extent, that they furnished you with lessons". LARRY said he would see BILL Monday. b7D

Informant advised that on December 15, 1942 MR. GYBOL called BILL. BILL said he meant to come to see him but that he has been very busy. GYBOL said he had some information for BILL and BILL said he would try to get out to see him that afternoon about 4:00 PM.

Confidential informant [] advised that on December 17, 1942 WALLY called MARCELLA. WALLY told MARCELLA that he is having trouble with his father. He said when she is home everything is all right, but when she is not there, he attacks him and mother. WALLY said, "He will kill us some of these days". WALLY said she should get mother out of there. MARCIE said she would call him back in a half hour or so. Later this same day WALLY called MARCIE and said - "When I got home he walked out of the house with his revolver". MARCIE said, "The old man did that". WALLY said yes. She asked what the argument was about this time. WALLY suggested that he send their mother to Waukegan. MARCIE said they would try and drive out. b7D

Director 12/28/42

Confidential informant [] advised that the conversations hereinabove mentioned took place from December 2, 1942 to December 19, 1942. b7D

It is recommended that the above coverage by confidential informant [] be continued. b7D

Very truly yours,

S. J. DRAYTON, SAC

JWK:MJ

25-5976

Federal Bureau of Investigation

United States Department of Justice
POST OFFICE BOX 812
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. E. A. Tamm	
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Ladd	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tracy	
Mr. Carson	
Mr. Coffey	
Mr. Hendon	
Mr. Kramer	
Mr. McGuire	
Mr. Quinn	
Mr. Nease	
Miss Gandy	
Files	

PERSONAL AND ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

January 6, 1943

Director
FBI

Attention: MRS. ED FITCH

RE: WILLIAM BERNARD WERNECKE
SELECTIVE SERVICE

Dear Sir:

(1) Confidential Informant [] advised that on December 22, 1942 Bill Wernecke called Larry Jacobs, his Attorney. Bill asks what you pay inheritance tax on. Larry says on everything. Bill asks when they have to open the safe deposit box. Any time that is convenient tomorrow. They decide on 11:30. Bill will be down at 11:00. Bill says he has been having an awful time with Rev. Carlson. He has a magnesium mine. He wants to borrow some money subject to a Government contract to take it out for $48.00 a ton for 50,000 tons. It is 50 miles from the Railroad, they don't even have to mine it. He wants a few thousand dollars to start and they will pay $.25 a ton royalty on the 50,000 tons and $.25 back in the form of paying the loan back. Bill says if it is true, there is enormous profit but he doesn't want to fool with it. Bill says he has four old guys like himself waiting for him (Bill) to come down and talk to them. Bill says it is in Cleveland, Tennessee. Larry says there might be a catch to it. Bill will see Larry tomorrow. b7D

Confidential Informant [] advised that on this same day Bill calls Will. Bill says he was made administrator of his mother's will and he doesn't want to turn in to the lawyer all the assets that she had. So he wants to talk over what she had with him. Bill says they are pressing him for an inventory. Will says there is nothing to be worried about. Bill says he wants to see him tomorrow. Will says it isn't necessary to take care of it now. b7D

Confidential Informant [] advised that on December 23, 1942 Bill calls Mrs. Donnath and asks if she got his Christmas card. She says she didn't get it yet. He can't understand that. He says Dr. Deutsch said he shouldn't have any worries and she worries him. Mrs. Donath says she has been having some terrible dreams. b7D

DEFERRED RECORDING

Confidential Informant [] advised that on December 23, 1942 he says she should help him, she shouldn't make a nervous wreck of him. He says some day when no one is around she should help him. He says it is very important that she doesn't get him excited anymore. He asks if he can count on her for the help he really needs it. She says all right. He will tell her about it when he sees her. b7D

FOR VICTORY
BUY UNITED STATES SAVINGS BONDS AND STAMPS

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D170

56 JAN 30 1943

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61-8118-114
F B I

9 JAN 16 1943

Director
FBI

RE: WILLIAM BERNARD WERNECKE
SELECTIVE SERVICE

b7D

Confidential Informant [redacted] advised that on December 24, 1942 Larry Jacobs calls Marcie. He says they can open the safe deposit box Monday at 3:00 PM. She will tell Bill about it. He says he heard they went to Crown Point a few days ago. She says no, "But I wish you would put the bug in Bill's ear though."

b7D

Confidential Informant [redacted] advised that on December 29, 1942 Bill calls Ted Miller and says he wants the name of the Tribune reporter who used to cover the America First meetings, his name was Marlow or something. Ted says, "You wouldn't be thinking of Doc Dwyer would you.". Bill says no, the fellow is short and fat. Ted says, oh, you mean Tom Morrow. Bill says "I wanted to call him up, there are a lot of things I wanted to tell him, I thought they might make a story on. Do you think they have a good attitude now?" Ted says, "Their attitude is the same as it always was on America First. It's not so hot on the Bund thought. It's pretty tough on them. That's why I say the thing for you to do is to repudiate the Bund. Just make it clear that you have divorced yourself from them completely." Bill says, "I can do that". Bill says he just saw that two men were shot by the FBI this morning and the police were barred from the premises. Bill says, "I want to call Morrow and call it to his attention and then they might write an editorial on it." Ted says there are several people that might be interested in that story. Morrow, Charley Leavelle and possibly Dwyer. Bill says, "I'll call those fellows up". Bill says, "The whole thing is like the Gestapo. Do you think Roger Faherty would be interested in that, how he would manage the Police Department after he gets the thing.". Ted doesn't know. Bill says he heard from Larry. He asks if Ted did. Ted says he hasn't heard a word from Larry.

Confidential Informant [redacted] advised that on December 29, 1942 Bill calls the Chicago Tribune. He asks for Reporter Morrow. Not in. He asks the man if he would care for a remark from a citizen. "I noticed about the FBI agents shooting some people on Leland Avenue and didn't allow the police to enter the premises. In my opinion that is getting pretty close to the German Gestapo." Man says, "I believe that was part of the Touhy gang and I think it was justified. They got Touhy and Banghart a couple of blocks away." Bill says, "Well I don't think the police would harm them in helping them catch them, I think the police would help them." Man says I think it was the FBI's show. Bill says, "Well I guess they were OK, but I would feel better if they wouldn't bar our police because some time they might want to get rid of somebody." Man says, "Well the police weren't in on the first part, but they were in on the second part all right." Bill says, "OK, thanks".

b7D

American First Committee

Director
FBI

RE: WILLIAM BERNARD WERNECKE
SELECTIVE SERVICE

b7D

Confidential Informant [] advised that on December 29, 1942 Ted calls Bill. Ted says, "I suppose by now you heard that those two men were the Touhy gang." Bill says yes. Bill says the Tribune told him. Bill says he gave them his opinion of Gestapo action, people being shot in secret and he thought in this case it was justified. Bill will stop around or he will call him up.

b7D

Confidential Informant [] advised that the conversations herein above mentioned took place from December 20, 1942 to December 30, 1942.

It is recommended that the above coverage by Confidential Informant [] be continued.

b7D

Very truly yours,

S. J. Drayton,
Special Agent in Charge

JWR:LL
25-5976
AMSD

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

CC-287

General Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.
January 11, 1943

JKM:MJL
Call: 11:20 A.M.
Transcribed: 1:00 P.M.

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Kramer
Mr. McGuire
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Tele. Room
Mr. Nease
Miss Beahm
Miss Gandy

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. D. M. LADD

RE: WILLIAM BERNARD WERNECKE
SELECTIVE SERVICE

SAC Drayton of Chicago called today and advised that they have had a technical surveillance on this subject for a considerable period of time andfor the past two months they have not gotten any information that would be beneficial. He wanted to know if there is any need for continuing this technical.

I told him that I would check the case here at the Bureau and see whether or not the technical can be discontinued.

Respectfully,

J. K. Mumford

RECORDED 61-8118-115
JAN 14 1943

cc: Mr. Cunningham

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R95 MAY 26 1961

1-14-43
10 35 am
ast Sac Belmont
of Chicago
notified of OK
to remove.

1/12/43
File reviewed
no beneficial info re
no benefical info
Bomb case closed
Sel Service
no interest
no tech. surveillance
on subject - no
OK's removal as
of the above.

FOR VICTORY BUY UNITED STATES SAVINGS BONDS AND STAMPS

57 JAN 27 1943

Federal Bureau of Investigation

United States Department of Justice

Chicago, Illinois

February 2, 1943

Director, FBI

Attention: Mr. Ed Fitch

Re: WILLIAM BERNARD WERNECKE
SELECTIVE SERVICE

Dear Sir:

Confidential Informant [redacted] advised that on December 31, 1942, BILL WERNECKE called LARRY JACOBS. LARRY says they have GEORGE WALTER JOHNSON to represent them and they are willing to divide the thing up so LARRY is going to see JOHNSON at 11:30. LARRY says Monday DONAHUE will be back from Milwaukee and he thinks they can work something out there in the tax foreclosure. b7D

[redacted] advised that he had nothing further to report covering a period from December 30, 1942 to January 3, 1943. b7D

It is recommended that the above coverage by Confidential Informant [redacted] be continued. b7D

Very truly yours,

DEFERRED RECORDING

S. J. Drayton

S. J. DRAYTON,
SAC

JWK:IM
25-5976

Discontinued 1-19-43

RECORDED & INDEXED

67-8118-146

F B I

1 FEB 9 1943

5-EF

FOR VICTORY BUY UNITED STATES SAVINGS BONDS AND STAMPS

51 FEB 19 1943

Federal Bureau of Investigation

United States Department of Justice

Chicago, Illinois

January 26, 1943

Director, FBI

RE: WILLIAM BERNARD WERNECKE
SELECTIVE SERVICE

ATTENTION: MR. ED FITCH

Dear Sir:

Confidential Informant [redacted] advised that on January 5, 1943, that Bill called W. W. Smith. Re: iron mine. Bill says he has been in contact with some men who want him to work with them producing iron. He says it is three men in the mining business and they wanted to go over to talk to the district attorney because this is important; iron for war production. Bill says Larry suggested he ask if it would be all right. Bill asks if he wants to see them first. Smith asks what it is all about. Bill says they have 200 acres that is supposed to be very good ore. It is 100 miles from Birmingham and they want him to be there and he said he couldn't the way things were and they thought maybe they could talk to the district attorney. Smith asks if it is something that they want him to invest in. Bill says there is a small investment. Smith asks if it is someone he has known for a long time. Bill says Rev. Carlson is in on it. Smith says if they did work it out at all, "you would be available for the Army." Bill says, "I don't worry about that". Smith says, "What I mean is, you wouldn't be available to go down there". Bill says, "He says that anything connected with iron is a deferment, your deferred right away. If it isn't, then I can't be of any use to them". Smith says he doesn't know what to tell him "because if it is a deferment again, they are likely to get the idea that you are trying to get out of it of trying to evade the draft, it might complicate things." Bill suggests that they come in to see him at 2:00 p.m. tomorrow. Smith says he will talk to them.

b7D

[redacted] advised that on January 7, 1943, Bill calls Chicago Tribune and speaks with Mr. Morrow. Bill says he was up there about two years ago and denied any connection with the Bund. Morrow says he remembers him. Bill says he has been wanting to call up. "I guess you know I have had a lot of trouble since then and I want to deny all the stuff that the FBI said and I can prove all of it, I mean it is ridiculous." Morrow says Mr. Murray would be handling that and he is out so he will have him call Bill.

b7D

61-8116-17

RECORDED & INDEXED

2 FEB 3 1943

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DEFERRED RECORDING

36 FEB 4 1943

Director, FBI
January 26, 1943

RE: WILLIAM BERNARD WERNECKE
SELECTIVE SERVICE

Bill says, "I have all documents that I could put in his hands, I could show him a lot of things."

Confidential Informant [redacted] advised that the conversations herein above mentioned took place from January 4, 1943 to January 9, 1943. b7D

The services of Confidential Informant [redacted] were discontinued on January 15, 1943 by the authority of the Bureau. b7D

Very truly yours,

S. J. Drayton

S. J. DRAYTON
Special Agent in Charge

JWR:RP
25-5976

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice

Chicago, Illinois

February 5, 1943

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Kramer
Mr. McGuire
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy

PERSONAL AND ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Director FBI
Attention, Mr. Ed. Fitch

RE: WILLIAM BERNARD WERNECKE
SELECTIVE SERVICE

Dear Sir:

~~DESTROYED~~ RECORDING

Confidential Informant [redacted] advised that on January 11, 1943, woman calls Sylvia and advises that Max's brother is in a German prisoner's camp in Ottowa, Canada; they got a letter. Sylvia tells her to find out if they can send him cigarettes and things. Sylvia says she just got letters from Sweden last week where they told her they had just received her letters for Christmas that she wrote a year ago. Sylvia says she will write Ernie and tell him about it. b7D

[redacted] advised that on January 12, 1943, Bill calls Dr. Deutsch who asks if he saw Mr. Smith. Bill says he saw him twice. Bill says he said it all lodged on intent "on what his intent was". Deutsch says "Nobody could prove that.". Deutsch asks what he advised him to do. Bill says he couldn't get a definite OK from him. He told him to do nothing. b7D

Deutsch says, "You go to your local board and tell them you want clarification on this matter, you are getting tired of this business of waiting. You have sent in your questionnaire at the time when they called for it and certain changes have occurred since you have sent in your questionnaire, you got this letter from Mr. Richter and you want to know why they didn't answer you. What they are going to do about it. You want to see the local board chairman and you want an answer from him. You protest, you want to go to the appeal board and protest against being indicted as draft evader because there is no truth about it." Deutsch says he talked to a local board chairman and not mentioning names, he said the person is in 1A. Deutsch says there is no case about it at all. Deutsch says he has from now to February 15th to

FOR VICTORY BUY UNITED STATES DEFENSE BONDS AND STAMPS

EX-58

RECORDED & INDEXED

64-3118-118

B I

7 FEB 12 1943

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R 95 MAY 26 1961

52 FEB 23 1943

get this case cleared up and the local board has to put him in 1A. Bill says he will do that tomorrow. He says Bill should tell the chairman he is a single man with no dependents and he wants to know where he stands. Deutsch says, "You have every right to demand a clarification of your case through the local board." Deutsch says, "I am quite sure if you get the thing started through your local board, the FBI won't be able to do a thing and you don't even need to notify Smith about it." Bill will let him know how he makes out tomorrow and he will see him Thursday at 5:00 PM.

Confidential Informant [redacted] advised that the conversations herein above mentioned took place from 1-9-43 to 1-14-43. b7D

It is to be noted that the coverage by Confidential Informant [redacted] has been discontinued as of 1-15-43 by the authority of the Bureau. b7D

Very truly yours,

S. J. Drayton

S. J. DRAYTON
Special Agent in Charge

JWK:MAT
25-5976
AMSD

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

FEB 15 1943

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Hendon
Mr. McGuire
Mr. Mumford
Mr. Piper
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy

FBI CHICAGO 2-15-43 5-05 PM MB

DIRECTOR

MICE. WILLIAM BERNARD WERNECKE, SS. CASE CONTINUED TO MARCH EIGHTH, NINETEEN FORTY THREE BY ORDER OF COURT.

DRAYTON

END

6-02 PM OK FBI WA GN

COPIES DESTROYED
R95 MAY 26 1961

55 FEB 24 1943

RECORDED 61-8118-19

4 FEB 19 1943

EX-12

Note reads:

"JEH: The AG authorized these surveillances on July 2, 1942. They must have gone astray.

/s/ Carusi
7-15-42"

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

JUL 15 1942

DECLASSIFIED BY SP-5 RS/6/PB
ON 7-12-82 #40,167

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL RECEIVED JUL 15 1942

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Kramer
Mr. McGuire
Mr. Quinn Tamm.
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

On July 1, 1942, I submitted recommendations for the establishment of technical surveillances to cover William D. Wernecke, 6250 North Wayne Street, Chicago, Illinois, and Carl Bartler, Maywood, Illinois, both of whom had been established as contacts of subjects in the Nazi sabotage case which is now being heard.

In view of the established connection of Wernecke and Bartler with the subjects in this case, I believe it is desirable to establish these surveillances for a further check on both Bartler and Wernecke. I am, therefore, recommending that you give this matter your early attention in order that we may profit to the fullest extent through the establishment of these surveillances.

Respectfully,

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover
Director

JCH: The AG authorized these surveillances on July 2, 1942. They must have gone astray

RECORDED 61-8118-120
MAR 17 1943

7-15-42

3/16/43 Keep in 7139 files

MAR 26 1943

RECORDED COPY FILED IN

Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Chicago, Illinois

May 3, 1943

Director, FBI

RE: WILLIAM BERNARD WERNECKE, alias "Hitler"
MARTHA C. WERNECKE, with aliases et al
ESPIONAGE - G

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to the report of Special Agent J. W. CHURCHWARD, dated January 12, 1942 at Chicago, Illinois in captioned matter and to the custodial detention card for Mrs. MARTHA C. WERNECKE, 6250 Wayne Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

Inasmuch as Mrs. MARTHA C. WERNECKE died on or about November 21, 1942, her custodial detention card is being placed in her investigative file.

Very truly yours

S. J. Drayton

S. J. DRAYTON
Special Agent in Charge

LHF:DMK
65-582

COPIES DESTROYED
R95 MAY 26 1961

RECORDED 61-5118-21
F B I
25 MAY 6 1943

58 MAY 15 1943

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAY 1 1943

TELETYPE

FBI CHICAGO 5-1-43 10-45 AM JR

DIRECTOR

ADDLE. WILLIAM BERNARD WARNECKE, WAS, SS. BY MOTION OF DEFENDANT AND AGREEMENT OF THE USA ON APRIL TWENTY SEVEN THE CASE WAS ORDERED CONTINUED TO JUNE FIRST, NINETEEN FORTY THREE FOR TRIAL.

DRAYTON

END

11-46 AM OK FBI WAGN

William Bernard Warnecke 100-36543

RECORDED 61-8118-122

EX-8 SE 133

29 MAY 2 1943

57 MAY 18 1943

WERNECKE, WILLIAM BERNARD, WITH ALIAS NATIVE BORN GERMAN
William L. Wennecke

6250 N. Wayne Ave.
Chicago, Illinois.

Bur. File No: 61-8118

CHICAGO FIELD OFFICE

Born in Chicago, Illinois, 1/21/07.

HEW:jmc 5/21/43

61-8118-
SE 31-NOT RECORDED

51 JUN 9 1943

JUN

TELEMETER

Mr. Nichols
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Acers
Mr. Carson
Mr. Rendon
Mr. Mumford
Mr. Starke
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Miss Gandy

WASH C2 CGO 4 155P

DIRECTOR

ZARF. WILLIAM BERNARD WERNECKE, WAS, SS. JURY RETURNED GUILTY VERDICT ON COUNTS ONE AND THREE OF INDICTMENT, AFTER DELIBERATING FIFTY ONE MINUTES. MOTION FOR NEW TRIAL TO BE HEARD FRIDAY JUNE TWELFTH. NO DATE SET FOR SENTENCING.

DRAYTON

COPIES DESTROYED
R95 MAY 26 1961

RECORDED

61-8118-123
F B I
5 JUN 5, 1943

CIF
56 JUN 18 1943

WENNECKE, WILLIAM BERNARD, WITH ALIAS
William L. Wennecke

NATIVE BORN

GERMAN

6250 N. Wayne Ave.,
Chicago, Illinois.

Bur. File No. 61-8118

CHICAGO FIELD OFFICE

Born in Chicago, Illinois, 1/21/07.

HEW:jmc 5/21/43

HEW

William Bernard Wennecke

127 SE

61-8118
16-NOT RECORDED

55 JUN 12 1943 25

HEW

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

GCC-287

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.
June 4, 1943

GCC:ML

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Kramer
Mr. McGuire
Mr. Piper
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Tele. Room
Mr. Nease
Miss Beahm
Miss Gandy

MEMORANDUM FOR ~~THE DIRECTOR~~

Re: WILLIAM BERNARD WERNECKE, was.
Selective Service.

The Chicago Office advised today that the subject was convicted on two counts of an indictment charging him with violation of the Selective Training and Service Act of 1940. The jury returned its verdict after 51 minutes of deliberation. A motion was made for a new trial and it will be heard Friday, June 12, 1943. No date for sentence has been set as yet.

You will recall that Wernecke was closely associated with Herbert Haupt, one of the subjects in the Dasche case who was executed. Haupt contacted Wernecke when he returned to this country after having participated in a sabotage school in Germany.

You will also remember that Wernecke was a member of the German-American Bund and that he corresponded with William Dudley Pelley. At the time of Wernecke's arrest, a large quantity of guns and ammunition was found on his farm. He claimed to be a minister of the Gospel and as such to be entitled to a deferred classification under the Selective Training and Service Act. At his trial, however, officials of the Moody Bible Institute testified that he was not a bona fide divinity student but that he had received 54 correspondence school lessons of which he completed and returned only 1.

Respectfully,

D. M. Ladd

RECORDED

100-8118-124

6 JUN 5 1943

FOR VICTORY BUY UNITED STATES DEFENSE BONDS AND STAMPS

52 JUN 17 1943

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAY 26 19

TELETYPE

WASH C1 CGO 26 1100 A

DIRECTOR

BEND. WILLIAM BERNARD WERNECKE, SS. USA ADVISES INSTANT CASE WILL GO TO TRIAL JUNE ONE NEXT. BUREAU WILL BE ADVISED BY TELETYPE OF ALL DEVELOPMENTS.

DRAYTON

RECORDED

61-8118-125

1 JUN

52 JUN 17 1943

COPIES DESTROYED
R&S MAY 26 1961

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JUN 3 1943

TELEMETER

Mr. Nichols
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Acors
Mr. Carson
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Rumford
Mr. Starke
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Nease

WASH C10 CGO 3 635 PM

DIRECTOR

ZARF. WILLIAM BERNARD WERNECKE WAS, SS. SUBJECT WERNECKE TOOK STAND IN DEFENSE OF SELF TESTIFYING GENERALLY THAT ALL ANSWERS IN QUESTIONNAIRE WERE TRUE. ON CROSS EXAMINATION, SUBJECT ADMITTED ATTENDING BUND MEETINGS AND SELLING PELLEY LITERATURE AT ARYAN BOOK STORE AT BUND HEADQUARTERS. ADMITTED WRITING LETTER TO PELLEY ASSISTANT STATING HE WAS BUND MEMBER AND DESIRED MEMBERSHIP IN PELLEYS SILVERSHIRTS BUT STATED THIS WAS ONLY HYPOTHETICAL QUESTION. TESTIFIED IN ADDITION TO ORDAINATION BY CHRISTIAN MINISTRY COLLEGE WAS ORDAINED BY GOD WHEN TWENTY ONE YEARS OLD. CROSS EXAMINATION BROUGHT OUT TYPE OF ORGANIZATION SUBJECT A MEMBER OF AS JURY AND JUDGE KEPT IN STATE OF LAUGHTER. GOVERNMENTS REBUTTAL WITNESSES JOHN ANDERSON OF LUTHER INSTITUTE AND LOIS ERNEST OF CENTRAL YMCA CHICAGO TESTIFY THAT SUBJECT DID NOT STUDY RELIGIOUS COURSES IN THESE SCHOOLS AS CLAIMED IN QUSESTIONNAIRE. PROSECUTION AND DEFENSE ATTORNEYS PRESENTED CLOSING ARGUMENTS TO JURY. JUDGES CHARGE TO JURY WILL BE GIVEN TEN AM TOMORROW.

DRAYTON

RECORDED 17 JUN 5 1943

F 64-8118-1263 B 1

52 JUN 17 1943

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

CC-287

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.
June 3, 1943

GCC:ML

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Kramer
Mr. McGuire
Mr. Piper
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Tele. Room
Mr. Nease
Miss Beahm
Miss Gandy

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. LADD

Re: WILLIAM BERNARD WERNECKE, with aliases;
Selective Service.

As you know, the trial of this case is now proceeding and apparently the Government has a very strong case. The exhibits consisting of guns and pro-Nazi material seized at the home of Wernecke have been admitted as evidence by the judge over the objection of the defense counsel.

The testimony so far establishes that Wernecke was never a student at the Moody Bible Institute but did receive a correspondence course from that institution for the purpose of becoming a minister thereof. The testimony shows that out of 54 lessons, he completed only 1.

The testimony of Fred Simpson Brown shows that Wernecke was not ordained as a minister of that organization. Witness Raymond Joseph Healey, a former Bund and Silver Shirt member, has testified that Wernecke told him he anticipated war between the United States and Germany and that National Socialists in the United States would endeavor to avoid induction by organizing a church.

A Mrs. Irma Strope, a former employee of Wernecke, testified that he was irreligious and encouraged her not to attend church.

The Government rested its case yesterday. The defense made a motion for a directed verdict which was denied. The Chicago Office also advised that the subject will probably take the stand in his own defense today.

You will be advised of further developments.

Respectfully,

G. C. Callan

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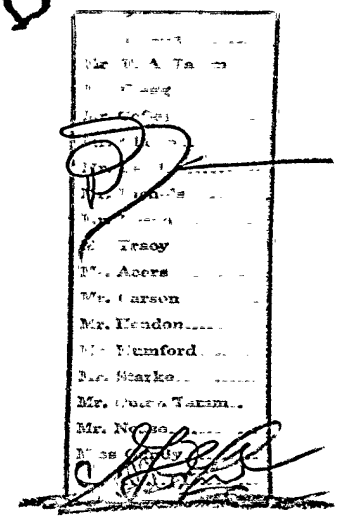
100-8118-127

F B I

17 JUN 5 1943

FOR VICTORY
BUY UNITED STATES DEFENSE BONDS AND STAMPS

52 JUN 17 1943



WASH C19 CGO 2 7-27 P M

DIRECTOR

ZARF. WILLIAM BERNARD WERNECKE, WAS SS. SA P V ROBE TESTIFIED TO ARREST OF SUBJECT ON SEPTEMBER FIFTH, NINETEEN FORTY TWO AND INTRODUCED EXHIBITS RECOVERED FROM SUBJECTS RESIDENCE. DEFENSE COUNSEL OBJECTED TO [redacted] ADMISSIBILITY OF EVIDENCE OBTAINED [redacted] INCIDENTAL TO ARREST BUT ADMITTED BY JUDGE BARNES. RAYMOND JOSEPH HEALEY, FORMER BUND [redacted] AND SILVER SHIRT MEMBER TESTIFIED THAT SUBJECT MADE STATEMENTS ANTICIPATING WAR BETWEEN UNITED STATES AND GERMANY AND THAT ALL NATIONAL SOCIALIST IN UNITED STATES WOULD ENDEAVOR TO AVOID INDUCTION IN ARMY BY ORGANIZING A CHURCH. MRS IRMA STROPE, FORMER EMPLOYEE AT SUBJECTS FARM AT WADSWORTH, ILLINOIS TESTIFIED THAT SUBJECT [redacted] ENCOURAGED HER NOT TO ATTEND CHURCH, THAT RELIGION WAS ONLY THEORY AND THAT HITLER HAD NO RELIGION. GOVERNMEN T RESTED CASE AND DEFENSE MADE MOTION FOR DIRECTED VERDICT WHICH WAS DENIED. COUNT TWO DISMISSED [redacted] BY AGREEMENT. DEFENSE [redacted] EXAMINED WITNESS MARTIN CARLSON WHO STATED HE WAS A [redacted] MEMBER OF THE ALLIED CHRISTIAN MANAGEMNT ARMY OF WHICH SUBJECT WAS A MEMBER. ADMITTED ON CROSS EXAMINATION THAT HE HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH ORDINATION OF SUBJECT AND CHRISTIAN MINISTRY COLLEGE ONLY PAPER ORGANIZATIONS. [redacted] TESTIFIED [redacted] b3 GRAND JURY AND SIGNED STATEMEN T TO [redacted]

[redacted]

28

52 JUN 17 1943

DRAYONXXX DRAYTON

Chicago Ill
6/10/43

D

ANONYMOUS COMMUNICATIONS
KEEP ENVELOPE ATTACHED

Dear Sir

Nearly all last year at Breakfast in the Harmony Cafeteria on Washington St, I saw the Martin Carlson mentioned in the Wernicke Case, with men of Germanic appearance & all were over the draft age;

JD

RECORDED & INDEXED
Dsof
EX-56

61-8118-129
F B I
6 JUN 10 1943

51
50 JUN 17 1943

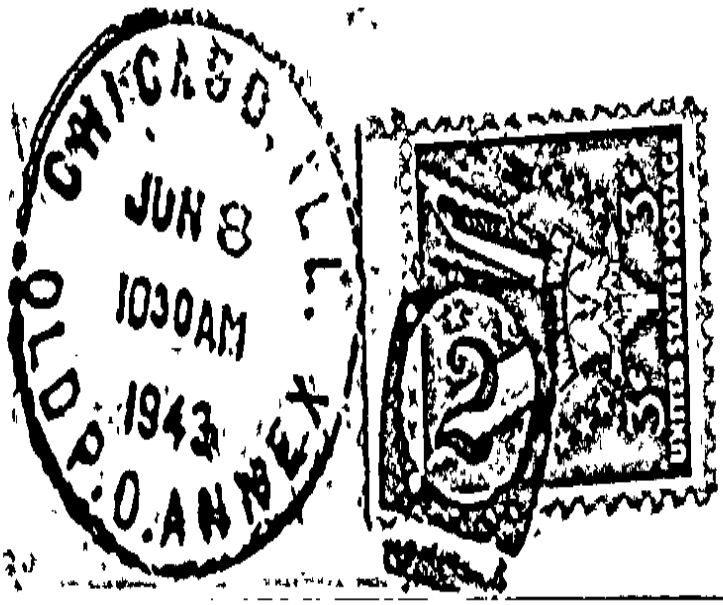
Fred Drueland

Williams Best card @ Wernicke.

F. B. I.

Washington

D. C.



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U S DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JUN 1 1943

TELEMETER

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Acers
Mr. Carson
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Mumford
Mr. Starke
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Neas

WASH C5 CGO 1 6-57 PM

DIRECTOR

ZARF. WILLIAM BERNARD WERNECKE, WAS, SS. JUDGE JOHN P. BARNES INSISTED ON TRIAL BY JURY AND SAME SELECTED COMPOSED OF FIVE MEN AND SEVEN WOMEN. OPENING STATEMENTS MADE BY USA AND DEFENSE ATTORNEY W. W. SMITH, ELLA POWERS, CLERK LB NUMBER TWO LIBERTYVILLE, ILLINOIS TESTIFIED TO SS RECORDS. MARK NEVILLE, SECRETARY LB NUMBER TWO TESTIFIED TO METHOD OF CLASSIFICATION. ADOLPH BROMANN, SUPERINTENDENT OF MEN MOODY BIBLE INSTITUTE TESTIFIED TO ORGANIZATIONAL SET UP OF MOODY BIBLE INSTITUTE EXPLAINING DIFFERENCE BETWEEN DAY AND NIGHT SCHOOLS AND CORRESPONDENCE SCHOOL. TESTIFIED SUBJECT NOT RXXX ENROLLED IN DAY OR NIGHT SCHOOL. GEORGE E. LES LIE, MOODY BIBLE INSTITUTE TESTIFIED TO CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN SUBJECT AND MOODY BIBLE INSTITUTE. WILLIAM SPRATT, DIRECTOR, CORRESPONDENCE SCHOOL, MOODY INSTITUTE TESTIFIED OF ENROLLMENT OF SUBJECT BUT HE ONLY RETURNED ONE OF FIFTY FOUR LESSON ASSIGNED HIM. FRED SIMPSON BROWN, PERSON WHO SUBJECT CLAIMED IN SS QUESTIONNAIRE AS ORDAINING HIM DENIED BEING ORDAINED MINISTER AND ORDAINING WERNECKE. TESTIMONY TO BE RESUMD TEN AM JUNE SECOND.

DRAYTON

RECORDED
BX-10
INDEXED
61-8118-130
JUN 3 1943

58 JUN 12 1943

JUN 11 [illegible]

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. [illegible]
Mr. [illegible]
Mr. Nichols
Mr. [illegible]
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Acers
Mr. Carson
Mr. Lenson
Mr. Mumford
Mr. [illegible]
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy

WASH C4 CGO 11 520 P

DIRECTOR

NEON. WILLIAM BERNARD WERNECKE WAS, SS. SUJXXX SUBJECT SENTENCED TODAY BY FEDERAL JUDGE, J. P. BARNES TO CUSTODY ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR FIVE YEARS AND FINED TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS ON COUNT ONE OF INDICTMENT AND FIVE YEARS AND TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS ON COUNT THREE OF INDICTMENT. SENTENCES TO BE SERVED CONCURRENTLY AND PAYMENT OF ONE FINE TO REMIT THE OTHER. COUNT TWO PREVIOUSLY STRICKEN ON MOTION USA. MOTIONS FOR NEW TRIAL, ARREST OF JUDGMENT AND CONENXXX CONTINUATION OF BAIL PENDING APPEAL DENIED.

RECORDED
DRAYTON

EX-46

61-8118-131

5 JUN 29 1943

CONCONF TO DIRECTOR AND SAC NEW YORK

371

51 JUL 1 [illegible]

DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM:
FBI AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE
DATE 11-25-2011

ND-33

JCM:ep
61-8118

June 10, 1943

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
REGISTERED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Special Agent in Charge
Chicago, Illinois

RE: WILLIAM BERNARD WERNECKE, with alias
CUSTODIAL DETENTION - C

Dear Sir:

There is enclosed herewith a photostatic copy of

X an addition to the Custodial Detention card relating to Subject. This addition is to be attached to the photostatic copy of the Custodial Detention card already in your possession.

____ a revised Custodial Detention card relating to Subject to be substituted for the photostatic copy of the Custodial Detention card presently in your possession which should be destroyed.

Very truly yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Acers
Mr. Carson
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Mumford
Mr. Starke
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED 7
Enclosure
JUN 10 1943 P.M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

61-8118

50 JUN 12 1943

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

I.C.#61-8118

June 30, 1943

WILLIAM EDWARD [illegible],
with aliases, William L.
Oernecke, "Hitler"
SELECTIVE SERVICE

It was in 1929 that people around Silburn, Illinois first became suspicious of William E. Oernecke, a 36-year old gentleman farmer, who operated his mother's nearby farm and supervised the hired help. He spent much of his time associating with German groups, attending Bund meetings, and he became well-known for his anti-Semitic activities. Oernecke maintained a target range on the farm and carefully looked after a collection of firearms.

Oernecke invited his fellow Bundsmen in to shoot on the range and the group met from time to time to celebrate German victories. Several prized riding horses occupied his stable and frequently small groups of men were observed drilling on foot and horseback across Oernecke's acres.

"That," Oernecke would boast "is my German cavalry."

His goose-stepping colleagues called Oernecke "Hitler" and to them, Mrs. Oernecke was "Mrs. Von Ribbentrop." Another satellite Bundsman was named "Goering."

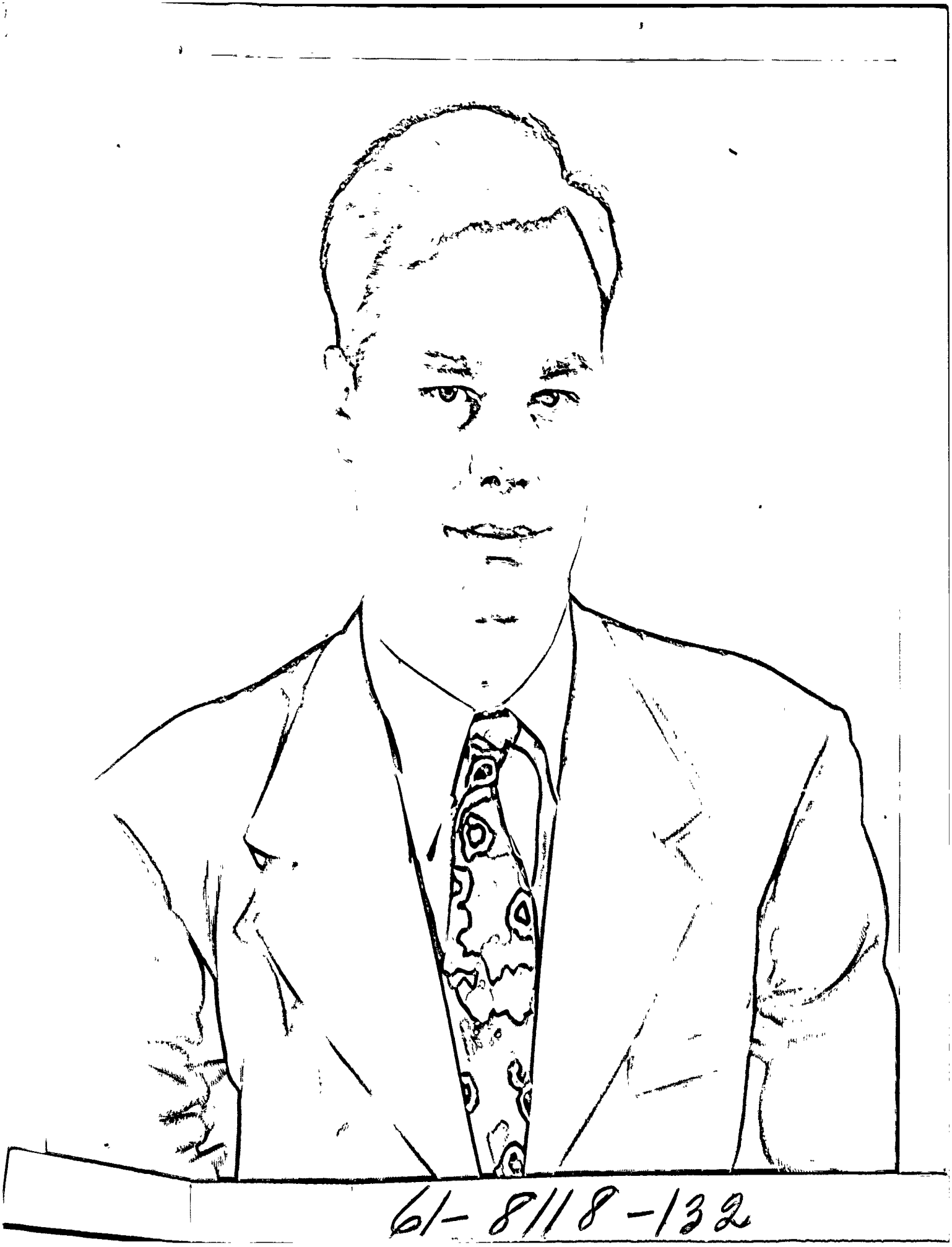
In Oernecke's personal gun collection were several Army rifles. In addition he maintained a supply of seventy-five sticks of dynamite and a large quantity of caps and fuses. Oernecke and his friends regularly saluted a large portrait of Hitler. The Nazi swastika was draped nearby. During 1940 German Bund meetings were held on "Hitler" Oernecke's farm on Sunday nights. The men drilled and held target practice at 500 yards.

Mr Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Kramer
Mr. McGuire
Mr. Harbo
Mr Quinn Tamm
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy

Mr. Oernecke was born in Chicago, January 21, 1907. Mrs. Martha Oernecke, mother of the bundsman, a militant anti-Semitic leader in Chicago, Illinois, and co-organizer with her son of the Joint Committee of Patriotic Organizations, an anti-Semitic organization, died of natural causes in November, 1942. A frequent distributor of propaganda, Oernecke scattered leaflets on November 2, 1939, denouncing the Jews and President Roosevelt. From time to time he traveled to New York to visit Fritz Kuhn and confer with Father Coughlin.

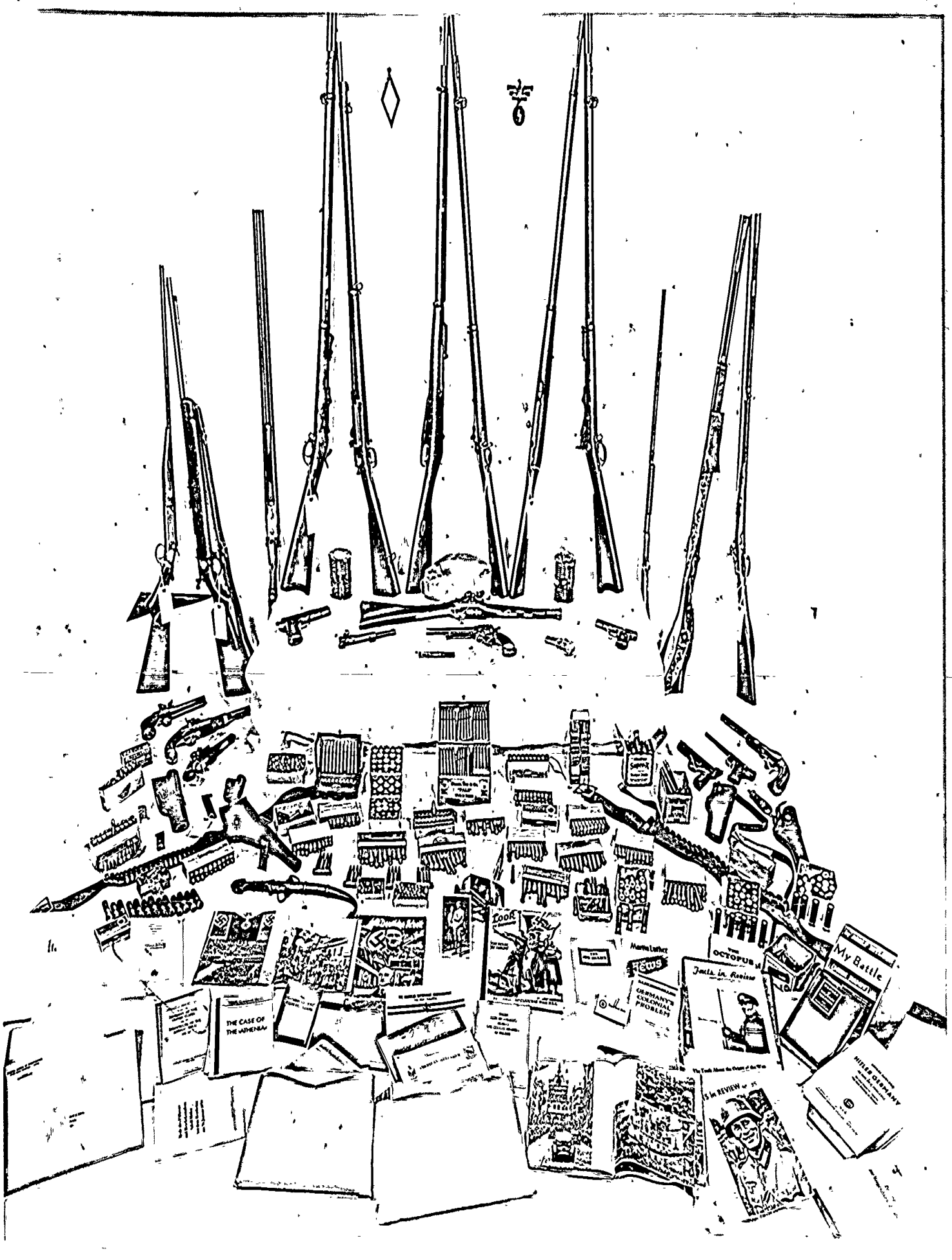
Oernecke belonged to the German-American Bund in Chicago and at one time manag d the Aryan Book Shop at Bund headquarters in Chicago.

SE INDEXED 61-8118-132



61-8118-132

William Bernard Wernecke, Chicago Bundsman, arrested September 5, 1942, by the FBI for violating the Selective Training and Service Act.


THE CASE OF THE ATHENIA
Mein Kampf
OCTOPUS
Jews in Review
My Battle
GERMANY'S COLONIAL PROBLEM
HITLER'S GERMANY

Arsenal maintained by William B. Wernecke, Chicago Bundsman, which was seized by the FBI following Wernecke's arrest September 5, 1942, for violating the Selective Training and Service Act.

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

WASHINGTON, D. C.

July 16, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR
HUGH B. COX, ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL
AND
J. EDGAR HOOVER, DIRECTOR
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

I refer to Mr. L. M. C. Smith's memorandum to me dated June 28, 1943, which reviews the history, development, and meaning of the Special Case work and of the danger classifications that were made as a part of that work.

After full re-consideration of these individual danger classifications, I am satisfied that they serve no useful purpose. The detention of alien enemies is being dealt with under the procedures established by the Alien Enemy Control Unit. The Special Case procedure has been found to be valueless and is not used in that connection. There is no statutory authorization or other present justification for keeping a "custodial detention" list of citizens. The Department fulfills its proper functions by investigating the activities of persons who may have violated the law. It is not aided in this work by classifying persons as to dangerousness.

Apart from these general considerations, it is now clear to me that this classification system is inherently unreliable. The evidence used for the purpose of making the classifications was inadequate; the standards applied to the evidence for the purpose of making the classifications were defective; and finally, the notion that it is possible to make a valid determination as to how dangerous a person is in the abstract and without reference to time, environment, and other relevant circumstances, is impractical, unwise, and dangerous.

For the foregoing reasons I am satisified that the adoption of this classification system was a mistake that should be rectified for the future. Accordingly, I direct that the classifications heretofore made should not be regarded as classifications of dangerousness or as a

61-8118

61 AUG 27 1943 369

determination of fact in any sense. In the future, they should not be used for any purpose whatsoever. Questions raised as to the status or activities of a particular person should be disposed of by consideration of all available information, but without reference to any classification heretofore made.

A copy of this memorandum should be placed in the file of each person who has hitherto been given a classification. In addition, each card upon which a classification appears should be stamped with the following language:

"THIS CLASSIFICATION IS UNRELIABLE. IT IS HEREBY CANCELLED, AND SHOULD NOT BE USED AS A DETERMINATION OF DANGEROUSNESS OR OF ANY OTHER FACT. (SEE MEMORANDUM OF JULY 16, 1943 FROM THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO HUGH B. COX AND J. EDGAR HOOVER)."

Attorney General

DOC LAB NOTE

SERIAL 133

NOT IN FILE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

FILE NO. 25-5976

REPORT MADE AT	DATE WHEN MADE	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE	REPORT MADE BY
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS	9/7/43	11/13,30;12/3,4,14/42;2/15;3/8;4/27;6/1,2,3,4,11;7/6,29;8/11;9/3/43	G. DESMOND HACKETHAL GDH:LMC

TITLE	CHARACTER OF CASE
WILLIAM BERNARD WERNICKE, was	SELECTIVE SERVICE

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

True bill of indictment returned by Federal Grand Jury 11/13/42, charging violation of Section 311, Title 50, U.S.C. for making false and untrue answers in questionnaire, and for failure to notify his local board of a change of status and willfully, maliciously, and feloniously attempting to evade service in the armed forces by falsely claiming to be a minister. Subject released on $5000 cash bond 11/17/42. On 11/23/42 hearing continued by Federal Judge WILLIAM J. CAMPBELL to 11/30/42 by agreement. On 11/30/42 hearing continued to 12/3/42. On 12/3/42 defendant entered motion for change of venue. Cause referred to Executive Committee for reassignment. On 12/4/42 the cause was reassigned to Judge JOHN P. BARNES. On 12/14/42 plea of not guilty entered and trial set for 2/15/43. On 2/15/43 cause continued to 3/8/43. On 3/8/43 cause continued to 4/30/43. On 4/27/43 by agreement cause continued to 6/1/43. On 6/1/43 cause called for trial and jury sworn. On 6/2/43 Count 2 of indictment dismissed on motion of USA. On 6/4/43 a verdict of guilty was returned and hearings on motion for new trial was set for 6/11/43. On 6/11/43 motion for new trial overruled. Subject sentenced to the custody of the Attorney General for period of 5 years on Counts 1 and 3, each sentenced to run concurrently. Fine of $10,000 was levied and payment of the fine on

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: S. J. Boynton, SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
	61-8114-134	RECORDED

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one count would discharge the fine on the other count. On 6/11/43 Subject filed appeal with Circuit Court of Appeals. District Court docket number 33677.

-P-

REFERENCE:

Summary report of Special Agent LEO H. FRUTKIN, 10/1/42 Chicago, Illinois.

Reports of Special Agent LEO H. FRUTKIN, 10/6/42, and 10/23/42, at Chicago, Illinois.

DETAILS:

AT CHICAGO, ILLINOIS:

On November 12, 1942, the case was presented to the Federal Grand Jury by Special Agent LEO H. FRUTKIN. On November 13, 1942, a True Bill of Indictment was returned by the Federal Grand Jury, charging the Subject with a violation of Section 311 Title 50, United States Code, on three counts; one for making false and untrue answers in his questionnaire, two for failure to notify the local board of a change of status, and 3 for willfully, maliciously, and feloniously attempting to evade service in the armed forces by falsely claiming to be a minister. A $5000 cash bond was set by Federal Judge JOHN P. BARNES, and a bench warrant was issued.

On November 17, 1943, the Subject was released on a $5000 cash bond. On November 23, 1943, the case was continued for plea and arraignment to November 30, by Federal Judge WILLIAM H. CAMPBELL. On November 30, 1942, the case was continued to December 3, 1942, by agreement. The order was entered by Judge CAMPBELL. On December 3, 1942, the Defendant entered a motion before Judge CAMPBELL asking for a change of venue and an affidavit in support thereof. The motion was granted and the cause was referred to the Executive Committee for reassignment. On December 4, 1942, the cause was reassigned, according to the rules, to Federal Judge JOHN P. BARNES. On December 14, 1942, the Subject entered a plea of not guilty and the trial was set for February 15, 1943, by Judge BARNES.

On February 15, 1943, the cause was continued for trial to March 8, 1943. On March 8, 1943 by agreement the cause was continued to April 30, 1943. On April 27, 1943, on motion of the defendant by agreement of the United

States Attorney, the cause was continued to June 1, 1943 for trial. On June 1, 1943, the cause was called for trial, the jury was sworn, and the evidence was heard in part for the Government. Trial continued through June 2, and 3. On June 2 Count two of the Indictment was dismissed on motion of the Assistant United States Attorney RICHARD G. FINN. On June 4, 1943, the Jury returned a verdict of guilty. The Jury was pulled, the verdict was entered, and a motion of the defendant for a new trial was entered and hearing set for June 11, 1943.

On June 11, 1943, arguments were heard on the Subject's motion for a new trial and a motion in arrest of judgement. Both were over-ruled and denied, and the Subject was sentenced to the custody of the Attorney General for a period of 5 years on counts one and three, and fined $10,000. Terms of the imprisonment are to run concurrently and the payment of the fine of $10,000 on count one will discharge the fine on both counts.

On June 11, 1943, the Subject filed notice and courts of appeal filed motion for a new trial. On June 15, 1943, the Subject filed an appeal in the Circuit Court of Appeals. On July 6, and 29, and on August 11, and September 3, the writer contacted Assistant United States Attorney RICHARD G. FINN and JOHN OWEN with regard to the disposition of the exhibits in this case.

On September 3, 1943, JOHN OWEN advised the writer that he desired that the exhibits be held pending the disposition of the Subject's appeal by the United States Circuit Court of Appeals, at which time he stated he would advise the disposition desired by that office.

PENDING

Chicago File No. 25-5976

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

CHICAGO FIELD DIVISION:

AT CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, will contact the United States Attorney with regard to the disposition of the exhibits in this case when a decision is handed down by the Circuit Court of Appeals.

PENDING

He made an automobile trip to New York, in December, 1938, with Otto Willumeit and George Froboese, former Chicago leaders of the German-American Bund. He once wrote to William Dudley Pelley about organizing a unit of the Silver Shirts. In 1940, he showed a friend a membership card of the Knights of the White Camellia, allegedly an American Fascist organization.

One of the visitors to Kernecke's farm was a slender young man, light but muscular. His name was Herbert Haupt and he was a member of Kernecke's cavalry troop. Haupt was outspoken in his praise for Hitler's Germany and bleated that the Nazi dictator's ideas were right and that he should win the war. He was a close friend of Kernecke's.

The United States was to hear more of Haupt. In June, 1942, having spent many months in Germany, he landed upon Florida's shore from a German submarine. Together with seven other expertly trained saboteurs, he came to the United States as directed by his Nazi Masters to organize widespread sabotage. After a trial by a Military Commission, six of the saboteurs, among whom was Haupt, were electrocuted in the District of Columbia jail, on August 8, 1942.

Haupt was apprehended by the FBI in Chicago where he had immediately gone following the U-boat landings. There he was in close contact with Kernecke and visited him continuously — until Special Agents of the FBI ushered him away. No evidence was obtained during the investigation of Haupt to show that Kernecke furnished the saboteur any aid or assistance.

But William Kernecke was swiftly getting into trouble with the United States Government. Deeper and deeper he became involved in his pro-German preachments, propaganda spreading, and general subversive pursuits.

This little "Hitler" of Illinois had registered with his local Selective Service Board on May 5, 1941, at the Lake County Board. He listed his home as Libertyville, Illinois. Here begins a tale of illegal manipulations which tripped Kernecke and placed him neatly in Federal custody. He did everything in his power to obtain deferment.

At some length Kernecke explained to his local draft board his unfortunate illnesses, such as partial deafness with hearing cut to about 20% with a hardening of bone in each ear, myocardial damage, and intestinal disorders. Then of course there were his religious responsibilities. He had attended a Bible Institute and Christian Ministry College, and was an ordained minister in the Allied Christian Management Army, organized under the auspices of the Christian Evangelical Lutheran Church IV.

To cinch his selective service deferment, Kernecke pointed out that over and above everything else, he conscientiously objected to war and claimed exemption because he was opposed to both combatant and noncombatant military service. Regarding his classification, Kernecke stated, "I believe my induction should be deferred according to law because I am an ordained minister and at present a theological student."

He was placed in Class 4-F, but the local Selective Service Board began an inquiry to determine whether or not the Allied Christian Army is recognized for deferred classification. It was not recognized by the National Selective Service Headquarters. Special Agents of the FBI, having followed Kernecke's activities closely, uncovered the following examples of duplicity on the part of the little "Hitler".

He told the German Agent, Herbert Haupt, that he had built up his Selective Service file by having various doctors furnish letters claiming his physical disabilities;

He counselled Haupt about how to feign poor health and to make his heart beat rapidly, the latter purchased nitroglycerine pills at Kernecke's suggestion;

He urged Haupt to become an assistant minister in the Allied Christian Management Army and furnished him an application blank;

Numerous friends and associates of Kernecke were interviewed and none knew he was a minister or was engaged in any religious activity;

He had enrolled for a correspondence course at a Bible institute on November 1, 1940, but submitted only one lesson. He enrolled again on April 23, 1941, but failed to attend any classes;

It was determined the Christian Ministry College (which Kernecke claimed to have attended for six months) existed only on paper;

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Chicago disclaimed any knowledge of the Allied Christian Management Army or the Christian Evangelical Lutheran Church IV, a direct denial of Kernecke's assertion. His religious claims were all faked. Special Agents of the FBI arrested Kernecke on September 5, 1942 and he was charged with violating the Selective Training and Service Act.

En route to the arraignment shortly after the arrest, "Reverend" Kernecke attempted to quickly change from civilian clothes to ministerial garb. He whisked off a sporty, flowered necktie and placed around his neck a white clerical collar and black vestment which covered the breast of his shirt. The ministerial appearance ended there, however, for his costume was completed with a contrasting two-toned coat and trousers.

Kernecke's home was searched following his arrest and FBI Agents uncovered a veritable arsenal. He possessed eight rifles, six pistols, three shotguns and a supply of ammunition.

Kernecke was indicted by a Federal Grand Jury at Chicago, on November 12, 1942, for violating the Selective Training and Service Act of 1940. He pleaded not guilty upon the arraignment and his trial started on June 1, 1943.

Testimony introduced at the trial established that Bernecke was never a student at the Bible Institute but did receive a correspondence course from the organization. Out of 54 lessons he completed one. A former employee of Bernecke's testified that he was irreligious and encouraged her not to attend church.

In his closing argument the assistant United States Attorney excoriated Bernecke as a hypocrite who trafficked in religion to avoid serving his country in time of war.

The jury returned a verdict after 51 minutes of deliberation. Bernecke, attired in black ministerial garb, sat tensely on the edge of his chair as the jury's decision was read. At its conclusion, the plump defendant made an obvious attempt to appear unconcerned by stifling a yawn.

On June 11, 1943, Bernecke was in Chicago Federal Court sentenced to a five-year prison term and fined $10,000. To avoid the prison sentence Bernecke offered to join the armed forces, but Federal Judge John P. Barnes said he was "the last man I would want to see in the Army or Navy."

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

NOV 1943

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DIRECTOR

RECORDED - 47 161-8118-135

TRILL. RE WILLIAM BERNARD WERNECKE, WAS, SS. CCA, CHICAGO, IN. UNANIMOUS DECISION NOVEMBER FIFTH INSTANT AFFIRMED CONVICTION AND SENTENCE OF SUBJECT. COPY OF OPINION WILL BE OBTAINED AND FORWARDED TO THE BUREAU NOVEMBER SIXTH INSTANT.

F B I

8 NOV 8 1943

DRAYTON

PLS ACK

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no action
SJ

46

50 NOV 14 1943

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Chicago 90, Illinois

November 6, 1943

Director, FBI

RE: WILLIAM BERNARD WERNECKE
SELECTIVE SERVICE

Dear Sir:

For the information of the Bureau there is being enclosed herewith one copy of the opinion of the United States Circuit Court of Appeals, Seventh Circuit, which affirms the judgment of the lower court in the above entitled matter.

Very truly yours,

S. J. Drayton

S. J. DRAYTON, SAC

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Enclosure: 1

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FOR VICTORY BUY UNITED STATES WAR BONDS AND STAMPS

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In the
United States Circuit Court of Appeals
For the Seventh Circuit

No. 8329. October Term and Session, 1943.

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Plaintiff-Appellee,
vs.
WILLIAM BERNARD WERNECKE,
Defendant-Appellant.

Appeal from the District Court of the United States for the Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division.

November 5, 1943.

Before SPARKS and MINTON, *Circuit Judges,* and LINDLEY, *District Judge.*

MINTON, *Circuit Judge.* The defendant-appellant registered under and was subject to the Selective Training and Service Act of 1940. In the case at bar, he was charged in two counts with the violation of Section 311, Title 50, U. S. C. A.[1]

1. "SEC. 311. Offenses and Punishment.
"Any person charged as herein provided with the duty of carrying out any of the provisions of this Act, or the rules or regulations made or directions given thereunder, who shall knowingly fail or neglect to perform such duty, and any person charged with such duty, or having and exercising any authority under said Act, rules, regulations, or directions who shall knowingly make, or be a party to the making, of any false, improper, or incorrect registration, classification, physical or mental examination, deferment, induction, enrollment, or muster, and any person who shall knowingly make, or be a party to the making of, any false statement or certificate as to the fitness or unfitness or liability or nonliability of himself or any other person for service under the provisions of this Act, or rules, regulations, or directions made pursuant thereto, or who otherwise evades registration or service in the land or naval forces or any of the requirements of this Act,

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61-8118-136
ENCLOSURE

In the first count it was charged as follows:

> "* * * did unlawfully, knowingly, wilfully, and feloniously fail and neglect to perform a certain duty which he then and there was required to perform by the provisions of the Selective Training and Service Act of 1940, as amended, and the rules and regulations thereunder, which said duty the said defendant did then and there unlawfully, knowingly, wilfully, and feloniously fail and neglect to perform was the duty of making true and correct answers to the questions contained in the questionnaire executed by the said defendant on May 12, 1941 * * * *"

The other count charged as follows:

> "* * * did unlawfully, knowingly, wilfully and feloniously evade and attempt to evade service in the land or naval forces by falsely assuming and pretending to become a minister of religion * * * *"

No motion to quash or for a bill of particulars or a demurrer was filed by the defendant. At the conclusion of the Government's evidence, the defendant filed a motion for a directed verdict and also motions to strike each count of the indictment, but gave no reasons for the motions to strike. The District Court overruled all three motions, and the jury returned a verdict of guilty. From judgment upon such verdict, the defendant has appealed.

The first error urged is that each count of the indictment is bad. As to the first count, counsel for the defend-

or who knowingly counsels, aids, or abets another to evade registration or service in the land or naval forces or any of the requirements of this Act, or of said rules, regulations, or directions, or who in any manner shall knowingly fail or neglect to perform any duty required of him under or in the execution of this Act, or rules or regulations made pursuant to this Act, or any person or persons who shall knowingly hinder or interfere in any way by force or violence with the administration of this Act or the rules or regulations made pursuant thereto, or conspire to do so, shall, upon conviction in the district court of the United States having jurisdiction thereof, be punished by imprisonment for not more than five years or a fine of not more than $10,000, or by both such fine and imprisonment, or if subject to military or naval law may be tried by court martial, and, on conviction, shall suffer such punishment as a court martial may direct. No person shall be tried by any military or naval court martial in any case arising under this Act unless such person has been actually inducted for the training and service prescribed under this Act or unless he is subject to trial by court martial under laws in force prior to the enactment of this Act. Precedence shall be given by courts to the trial of cases arising under this Act."

ant admits that it charges the offense in the terms of the statute and that such an indictment may be good unless an element of the offense is charged by the use of generic terms, such as the word "duty" in the first count, in which case the indictment must set forth what the "duty" was. We think the first count sufficiently charges the offense in the terms of the statute and sufficiently alleges what that duty was. The duty was to make true answers to the questions in a questionnaire executed by the defendant. If he had any doubt as to the matter, he should have asked for a bill of particulars. This is not a case where the indictment fails to set forth an essential element. It is a case where the element is not set forth with sufficient particularity. The defendant, without challenging the sufficiency of the indictment which charged all the elements of the offense and without requesting a bill of particulars if the charge in general, broad terms were not sufficient, and without any showing that he had been misled, surprised, or prejudiced by the form of the indictment, went to trial and had his chance with the jury. Under such circumstances, it is our duty to sustain the indictment. 18 U. S. C. A., Sec. 556; *LaMar* v. *United States,* 241 U. S. 103, 116, 39 S. Ct. 535, 60 L. Ed. 912; *Dunbar* v. *United States,* 156 U. S. 185, 192, 15 S. Ct. 325, 39 L. Ed. 390; *Rosen* v. *United States,* 161 U. S. 29, 34, 16 S. Ct. 434, 40 L. Ed. 606.

What we have said as to the sufficiency of the first count applies to the other count.

At the time the defendant was arrested, the arresting officers entered his home and searched the premises, and took certain envelopes and papers that had been furnished him for use in a correspondence course of study for the ministry. On the trial, these papers were offered in evidence, and objection was made that they were inadmissible because obtained by illegal search and seizure. It would be sufficient to answer this objection to say that the court will not at the trial, form and pursue a collateral issue as to the legality of the possession of the defendant's papers by the Government. If the papers were otherwise admissible, the court will not inquire at the trial for the first time into the legality of the possession by the Government. The validity of the seizure could have been tested in a motion made before the trial for the return of

the papers. No such motion was made. The papers were otherwise admissible, and there was no legal basis to object to their introduction. *Adams* v. *New York,* 192 U. S. 585, 24 S. Ct. 372, 48 L. Ed. 575; *Rice* v. *United States,* 251 Fed. 778.

Furthermore, the papers alleged to have been illegally seized and introduced in evidence were introduced to prove the defendant had used only one set of the papers to report only one lesson completed and sent in; and the defendant testified to the facts sought to be proved by the evidence introduced and claimed to have been seized illegally. If the seizure had been originally improper, the defendant by his testimony made the seizure harmless. *Libera* v. *United States,* 299 Fed. 300, 301; *Temperani* v. *United States,* 299 Fed. 365; *White* v. *United States,* 16 F. 2d 870, 872.

The court instructed the jury as follows:

> "If you believe from the evidence that any witness in this case has knowingly and wilfully testified falsely on this trial to any matter material to the issues in this case, then you are at liberty to disregard the entire testimony of such witness, except in so far as it has been corroborated, if you find it has been corroborated, by other credible evidence, or by facts and circumstances proven on the trial."

To give this instruction was error, the defendant says, because it left to the jury the question of determining for itself what evidence was material, citing *People* v. *Wells,* 380 Ill. 347, 44 N. E. 2nd 32; and *People* v. *Flynn,* 378 Ill. 351, 38 N. E. 2nd 49. These cases do hold that such an instruction standing alone may constitute error. But the case cited of *People* v. *Wells, supra,* recognizes that if other instructions which define the material issues in the case are given as part of the same charge, the giving of the instruction herein complained of is not error. The trial court in the instant case instructed at length defining the material issues. The instruction complained of did not stand alone, but was supplemented by ample other instructions that clearly defined what the material issues in the case were. This supplied the fault pointed out by the defendant; and the giving of the instruction under the circumstances was not error. *Henry* v. *United States,* 273 Fed. 330, 338; *Mason* v. *United States,* 95 F. 2d 612.

As the judge was excusing the jury, he stated:

> "Ladies and gentlemen, counsel has made a motion here for a directed verdict for the defendant. I am going to deny the motion and refuse the instruction."

We do not think this statement was prejudicial. *Henry* v. *United States,* 273 Fed. 330, 336. Even if the statement were prejudicial standing alone, it was made harmless by the court's instructions that fully advised the jury to disregard any expressions of opinion the court might have made, disclaiming any intention to give expression to any opinion, and further instructing the jury as to their province.

Furthermore, the defendant made no objection to the court's statement at the time it was made, and took no steps to correct any supposedly prejudicial conduct so as to give the court a chance to correct any mistake it might have made. The objection cannot be taken here for the first time. *United States* v. *Bass,* 64 F. 2d 467, 469; *Luccioni* v. *United States,* 41 F. 2d 741, 742; *Baldwin* v. *United States,* 72 F. 2d 810, 812.

The District Attorney made the following statement in addressing the jury:

> "Now, do you believe that Mr. Wernecke is a disciple of Mr. Hitler? Do you believe that Mr. Wernecke belonged to the German-American Bund and that he was interested in disseminating propaganda in this country through the Aryan Book Store as was testified to from the witness stand?"

To this statement, defendant's counsel objected that it was unfair, inflammatory, and outside the issues in the case. The trial court overruled the objection. No motion was made to take the case from the jury. One of the counts upon which the defendant was being tried was for evasion of service by falsely assuming and pretending to be a minister of the gospel. It was in evidence that the defendant had said:

> "We National Socialists in this country must do something because due to the war and the events in Europe we will not be able to call our meetings and have our gatherings under the old name. We must then find ways and means of preventing induction into the armed forces of this country of our brother national socialists."

It was also in evidence that the defendant had worked in a book store in Chicago known as the Aryan Book Store, and had distributed the books and other literature of the German Library of Information. We take judicial notice that the National Socialists are the followers of Hitler, and that the notorious German Library of Information was an agency for the dissemination of Hitler's propaganda in this country. This was evidence quite persuasive that one who wished to keep National Socialists out of the draft would not be above pretending that he was a minister, as ministers are exempt from service under the Selective Training and Service Act. The statement was a fair comment upon the evidence and its applicability to the issues. Furthermore, it might have been considered proper rebuttal to the argument of the defendant's counsel in his attempt to purge the defendant of his apparent devotion to the cause of Hitler. The defendant's counsel argued quite extensively to persuade the jury that the defendant was free from the taint of Hitler Nazism. Such fair rebuttal argument cannot be considered error. *United States* v. *Socony-Vacuum Oil Company,* 310 U. S. 150, 241, 242, 60 S. Ct. 811, 84 L. Ed. 1129; *United States* v. *Skidmore,* 123 F. 2d 604, 610; *Baker* v. *United States,* 115 F. 2d 533, 544; *Comeriato* v. *United States,* 58 F. 2d 557, 558; *Rice* v. *United States,* 35 F. 2d 689, 695.

The defendant contends that he was classified as a minister by the only body authorized by law to make such classification, namely, his local Draft Board; that on the record, he is classified as a minister, and as such minister, he is entitled to exemption from service; and that this prosecution was a collateral attack upon the proceedings of the Draft Board.

In our opinion, this is not a collateral attack upon the determination of the Draft Board. The Draft Board determined the status of the defendant. The District Court, which is a court with criminal jurisdiction, did not attempt to change that status. It attempted only to try the defendant for his allegedly fraudulent conduct in obtaining that status. That is an issue the Draft Board could not try and determine. The action of the District Court was not a collateral attack in an effort to change the defendant's status, but a trial of the defendant for the allegedly fraudulent method by which he obtained that status, which enabled him to evade service.

The same act which makes it obligatory upon the local Draft Board to exempt theological students and ministers, and makes that local Board's decision final on that issue, also makes it obligatory upon a District Attorney to prosecute a fraudulent registrant who effects evasion of service thereby.

Some other minor points were mentioned in the brief of the defendant, but, after consideration, we find no substance in them.

We find no error in the record, and the judgment of the District Court is

AFFIRMED.

A true Copy:
Teste:

.....

Clerk of the United States Circuit Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit.

USCA 1147 The Gunthorp-Warren Printing Co., Chicago—11-5-43—75

Excerpt

On September 13th, 1939 Jean E. DeVillard of 414 Diversey Parkway, phone Lakeview 3
Chicago, Illinois addressed Mr. Raymond Joseph Healey, P. O. Box 3620 Merchandise
Mart, Chicago, Illinois, "Dear Mr. Healey: Would it be asking too much to call me
on the phone. I want to have a talk with you. Very important regarding your paper.
I believe we can help you publish the same. I am a very dear friend of Jaenicken a
spoke of you very highly."
DeVillard was one of the founders of the now defunct Khaki Shirts of America headed
by Art J. Smith who was convicted of perjury a few years back in connection with a
murder trial and received 7 years sentence in the State Penitentary. Mr, DeVillard
now heading up the American Blackshirts Facisti.
Mr. DeVillard Cooperated with the leaders of the German American National Alliance --
with one Mr. William Wernecke, Chairman of the Joint Committee of Patriotic Organizat
organizer of the Friends of Father Coughlin; organizer of the Christian Defense Counc
organizer for the North Side Safety Council; organizer for the Silver Shirts Legion o
America; organizer for the Dearborn Crusaders; organizer for the German American Bund
and a gentleman farmer of Wadsworth, Illinois.
I have been in the home of Mr. Wernecke both in the City and on the farm where I have
seen a number of guns, but never in use. Mr. Wernecke and Mr. Frederick Capetta of
the South Side (phone Cal 5734) Chicago, a tailor by profession, who is an Italian a
a member of the Sons of Italy, organized the Secret Christian Defense Council as a
terroristic organization.
One of the first moves of their terror campaign was the breaking of store windows in
the City of Chicago; namely the Goldblatt Stores and a tailor shop on Western and
Byron Avenues, several on Armitage Avenue and others too numerous to mention to be
followed up by physical violence. A list of names were in the possession of both
Capetta and Wernecke and Dr. Homer H. Maerz, Fred Pokorney and Douglas Campbell.
Maerz, Pokorney and Campbell were arrested and tried for the Goldblatt case. Although
Wernecke was the brains, Maerz, Pokorney and Campbell will be "suckers".
Fred Capetta was Treasurer of the Christian Defense Council.

On January ., 1940 at 6:10 P.M. exact time, William Wernecke sent a Western Union
Telegram to Raymond Joseph Healey at his home which read "Come to my house at 10
o'clock tonight, important."
This was in connection with the Federal Grand Jury inquiring into the possible con-
nection between Wernecke's farm being used as a training ground for terrorists and
the Christian Front activity in New York. Mr. Wernecke advised me as to what I should
say before the Federal Grand Jury in connection with his suspicion that they may
question others and myself as to his guns, his farm, his activity, his source of incom
his organization affiliations, etc.

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INITIALS OF ORIGINAL

62 JAN 14 1944

Federal Bureau of Investigation

United States Department of Justice

Chicago 90, Illinois
P. O. Box 812

February 21, 1944

Director, FBI

RE: WILLIAM BERNARD WERNECKE, was.
SELECTIVE SERVICE
(Security Matter Index Card - G)

Dear Sir:

A review of the file relating to the above named individual reveals that on June 4, 1943 a verdict finding him guilty of violation of the Selective Training and Service Act of 1940 was entered and he was sentenced to a five year term. This decision was upheld by the Circuit Court of Appeals.

In view of the fact that subject is presently incarcerated the Security Index Card maintained in the Chicago Field Office is being placed in the exhibit folder of subject file.

Very truly yours,

S. J. DRAYTON, SAC

AE:mf
25-5976

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F B I
EX-25 19 FEB 25 1944

FOR VICTORY BUY UNITED STATES WAR BONDS AND STAMPS

58 MAR 2 1944

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

FILE NO: 25-5976

REPORT MADE AT	DATE WHEN MADE	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE	REPORT MADE BY
CHICAGO, ILL.	9/7/44	1/2;2/2,24; 3/29;4/7;5/10; 7/28,21;8/7, 8,14/44	G. DESMOND HACKETHAL GDH:BB
TITLE: WILLIAM BERNARD WERNECKE, with aliases William Wernyke, William L. Wernecke, Rev. William Wernecke, "Hitler", Arthur Morgan			CHARACTER OF CASE: SELECTIVE SERVICE

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Exhibits disposed of as directed by Assistant United States Attorney RICHARD G. FINN. Disposition sheet submitted.

- C -

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent G. DESMOND HACKETHAL, dated September 7, 1943, at Chicago, Illinois.

DETAILS: AT CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

II

On November 5, 1943, the United States Circuit Court of Appeals in Chicago unanimously affirmed the conviction and sentence of subject. A copy of the opinion was forwarded to the Bureau November 6, 1943.

On January 1, February 24, March 29, April 7, and May 10, 1944, the writer personally contacted Assistant United States Attorney RICHARD G. FINN concerning the disposition of the exhibits pertaining to this case. On each occasion Mr. FINN telephonically contacted Mr. LAWRENCE B. JACOBS, attorney for the subject, and urged him to get written permission from the subject to receive personal property which was taken in a search of the subject's house, which search was made incidental to his arrest.

DISPOSITION SHEET

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: S. J. Drayton SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

61-2118-1359

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EX 40

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Chicago File #25-5976

On July 27, 1944, Mr. JACOBS telephonically contacted the Chicago Field Division and advised Special Agent R. J. DRISCOLL that he had received the subject's written consent to receive his (subject's) personal property. Accordingly, on July 28, 1944, the writer prepared an inventory of the subject's property and made identification receipts, which were signed by Mr. JACOBS, and the property was turned over to him in the Chicago Field Office. All Fascist and Nazi propaganda which was obtained in this search was destroyed as per the directions of Mr. FINN. All of the records of the Allied Christian Management Army, which were secured by a subpoena duces tecum, were returned to the Anderson Brothers Warehouse, and a receipt was received. The personal papers of one RICHTER and the records obtained from R. A. PUTT of the Allied Christian Management Army were delivered to Mr. FINN at the United States Attorney's office on August 8, 1944, the writer having previously contacted Mr. FINN the day before as to disposition of these papers. Mr. FINN at that time advised that the papers should be brought to the United States Attorney's office in order that they be incorporated with the exhibits obtained by them during the Grand Jury investigation of the Allied Christian Management Army.

There being no further investigation in this matter, this case is being closed.

ENCLOSURES:

TO THE BUREAU, one disposition sheet.

- C L O S E D -

FORM NO. 64

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

GCC/ms

TO : MR. A. ROSEN

DATE: April 21, 1945

FROM : Mr. G. C. Callan

SUBJECT: WILLIAM B. WERNECKE

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Carson
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Mumford
Mr. Jones
Quinn Tamm
Mr. Room
Mr. Nease
Miss Beahm
Miss Gandy

The attached clipping from the Chicago American indicates that William B. Wernecke, who received the maximum sentence of 5 years and $10,000 on June 11, 1943 for violation of the Selective Training and Service Act as amended after having been convicted in a Federal Court in Chicago, Illinois, has been paroled.

Wernecke, you will recall, was a friend and associate of such people as Herbert Haupt, German saboteur who was executed, George Froboese and Otto Willumeit, midwest leaders of German-American Bund groups. He was one of the first individuals contacted by Haupt when Haupt returned to this country. When Agents searched his home following his arrest on March 5, 1943 they found 8 rifles, 6 pistols, 3 shot guns and a large supply of ammunition.

Wernecke counselled Haupt to feign poor health to avoid military service and suggested that he use nitroglycerin pills to create a false heart condition. Wernecke was a Nazi in every sense of the word. In addition, he was a faker. He claimed to be a minister of the gospel and our investigation showed that the Christian Ministry College, which he claimed to have attended, did not exist. He enrolled in the Moody Bible Institute, but submitted only one lesson. His defense was based upon his alleged ministerial status. He was convicted after a particularly bitter trial.

The news article recites that Wernecke entered the penitentiary December 15, 1943. It also states that he was paroled on August 17, 1944 after having served nine months of his five year term. According to the article, Wernecke was paroled for the purpose of entering the armed forces, and has been seen on the streets of Chicago recently in an Army uniform.

I realize that the matter of parole is one which is not within our jurisdiction, and I also realize, because it has been called to the Bureau's attention by Agents, by Judges and by U. S. Attorneys, that the persons responsible for parole matters have been letting persons convicted of violations of the Selective Service Act out of the penitentiaries almost as fast as we have been putting them in.

RECORDED & INDEXED 61-8113-140

There are certain cases, however, in which a parole for any purpose is unconscionable and offends the public nostrils. This, certainly, is such a case.

EX-7

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that we ascertain if the attached news clipping is correct and if it is, that we lodge a vigorous protest with the Department. It would also be well, if the story in this news article is correct, to bring it to the attention of certain press and radio contacts. It would appear that the public should know what is going on with regard to the administration of parole particularly in Selective Service cases.

Nate Gross
TOWN TATTLER

William B. Wernecke, bundist and friend of Herbert Haupt, executed Nazi spy, is a soldier in the United States army despite his conviction by a federal court and his sentence to 5 years in prison and fines of $10,000 on each of two counts which charged him with being a draft evader.

"He is the last man I would want to see in the army," said Federal Judge Barnes, as he overruled a motion for probation and refused to listen to Wernecke's offer to join the army. The United States Court of Appeals upheld the sentence.

Wernecke, whose pretense at being a minister of the Gospel was proven false, entered the federal penitentiary Dec. 15, 1943. He was examined by a selective service board at the Medical Center for Federal Prisoners in Springfield, Mo., and was accepted for regular service in the armed forces. He was paroled to the army on Aug. 17 of last year after serving nine months of his term.

Wernecke's parole application was approved by Attorney General Biddle as a matter of routine. The parole application still presented Wernecke as a minister of the Gospel despite the fact the jury which heard the case decided that this was not true. Bundist activities which included running the Aryan bookshop at the Bund headquarters on Western av., were not presented to Biddle.

Neither was the evidence, produced at the trial, of his association with Haupt and the Silver Shirts.

Wernecke was in Chicago recently wearing an army uniform. He is said to be stationed in the state of Washington. He is a crack shot and once drilled members of the Bund at his Wadsworth, Ill., farm. Richard G. Finn and John D. Owen who prosecuted Wernecke, express amazement at his release from federal custody. The local United States attorney's office had not been notified of the parole application or his parole.

Now hiding behind the false mask of being an ordained minister, Wernecke was quoted at his trial as having said:

"Hitler has no religion. Neither have I."

* * *

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Mr. Coffey
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
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THE CHICAGO AMERICAN

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